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WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

WESTERN COUNTIES WILDERNESS STUDY PROJECT

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
METROPOLITAN PROJECT AREA
INDIO RESOURCE AREA

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT

1987

U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA

March 3, 1849

IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the Agua Tibia, Beauty Mountain, Hauser Mountain, Western Otay Mountain and Southern Otay Mountain Wilderness Study Areas in the Indio Resource Area. The EIS analyzes the impact of adding acres to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Several No Wilderness and Partial Wilderness alternatives are also considered. The statement was prepared pursuant to Section (102)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and responds to the mandates of Sections 202, 203 and 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to review public lands and report on the suitability of these lands for wilderness designation to the President no later than October 21, 1991.

For further information contact: Leslie M. Cone, Area Manager, Indio Resource Area, 1900 Tahquitz-McCallum Way, Suite B-1, Palm Springs, California 92262.

Sincerely yours,

Ed Hastey

Ed Hastey
State Director

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE
WESTERN COUNTIES WILDERNESS STUDY PROJECT

Prepared by

Bureau of Land Management

California Desert District, California

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FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WESTERN COUNTIES WILDERNESS STUDY PROJECT

Draft ( ) Final (X) Environmental Impact Statement

1. Type of Action: Administrative ( ) Legislative (X)

2. Abstract:

The Bureau of Land Management, Indio Resource Area, California Desert District, California, has analyzed the impacts and resource tradeoffs of proposals to designate the Agua Tibia Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and portions of the Western and Southern Otay Mountain WSAs as wilderness and to not designate the Beauty Mountain WSA and Hauser Mountain WSA as wilderness. This environmental impact statement also analyzes the impacts and tradeoffs of several alternatives including wilderness, no wilderness, and other partial wilderness. Wilderness characteristics and special features are examined.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to determine the suitability of five Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in the California Desert for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. These are the Agua Tibia WSA (CA-060-002), the Beauty Mountain WSA (CA-060-020G), the Hauser Mountain WSA (CA-060-017C), the Western Otay Mountain WSA (CA-060-028), and the Southern Otay Mountain WSA (CA-060-029). This EIS assesses the environmental consequences of managing these WSAs as wilderness, partial wilderness, and no wilderness. The Hauser Mountain WSA, Western and Southern Otay Mountain WSAs, and a portion of the Beauty Mountain WSA are located within San Diego County. The other portion of the Beauty Mountain WSA and the Agua Tibia WSA are located within Riverside County.

The Proposed Action for the Agua Tibia WSA is All Wilderness. Under this proposal, all 360 acres will be designated as wilderness. One alternative was also considered--a No Wilderness/No Action Alternative which would not designate any of the 360 acres as wilderness, but would manage the area for multiple use. The issue analyzed for this WSA was impact on wilderness values.

The Proposed Action for the Beauty Mountain WSA is No Wilderness/No Action. Under this proposal, none of the 11,342 acres will be designated wilderness, but will be managed for multiple use. Two alternatives were also considered--an All Wilderness Alternative which would designate all 11,342 acres as wilderness; and a Partial Wilderness Alternative which would designate 6,190 acres as wilderness and recommend the remaining 5,152 acres for multiple use management. Issues analyzed for this WSA were impacts on wilderness values, sensitive plant species, upland game species, livestock grazing operations, and motorized recreation use levels.

The Proposed Action for the Hauser Mountain WSA is No Wilderness/No Action. Under this proposal, none of the 5,489 acres will be designated wilderness, but will be managed for multiple use. One alternative was also considered--an All Wilderness Alternative which would designate all 5,489 acres as wilderness. Issues analyzed for this WSA were impacts on wilderness values, sensitive plant species, and livestock grazing operations.

The Proposed Action for the Western Otay Mountain WSA is Partial Wilderness. Under this proposal, 4,110 acres will be designated wilderness; 1,640 acres will not be designated wilderness but will be managed for multiple use. Two alternatives were also considered--an All Wilderness Alternative which would designate all 5,750 acres as wilderness; and a No Wilderness/No Action Alternative which would not designate any of the 5,750 acres as wilderness but would manage the area for multiple use. Issues analyzed for this WSA were impacts on wilderness values, rare and sensitive plant species, Least Bell's Vireo habitat, and livestock grazing operations.

The Proposed Action for the Southern Otay Mountain WSA is Partial Wilderness. Under this proposal, 6,980 acres will be designated wilderness; 960 acres will not be designated but will be managed for multiple use. Two alternatives were also considered--an All Wilderness Alternative which would designate all 7,940 acres as wilderness; and a No Wilderness/No Action Alternative which would not designate any of the 7,940 acres as wilderness, but would manage the area for multiple use. Issues analyzed for this WSA were impacts on wilderness values and rare and sensitive plant species.

A Summary of Impacts for the Proposed Action and Alternatives for all WSAs is outlined on p. 45, Chapter 2.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) considers the possible consequences of wilderness and nonwilderness designation for five wilderness study areas (WSAs) in the Indio Resource Area in the California Desert District, California. They are the Agua Tibia WSA (CA-060-002), Beauty Mountain WSA (CA-060-020G), Hauser Mountain WSA (CA-060-027C), Western Otay Mountain WSA (CA-060-028), and the Southern Otay Mountain WSA (CA-060-029). The areas are adjacent to, or proximate to, the Cleveland National Forest, several Indian Reservations, private, and other Bureau-administered lands. The Agua Tibia WSA is located within Riverside County; and Beauty Mountain WSA straddles Riverside and San Diego Counties. The Hauser Mountain WSA, Western Otay Mountain WSA, and the Southern Otay Mountain WSA are located in San Diego County and are either adjacent to or near the International Border (Map 1).

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the All Wilderness proposal for the Agua Tibia WSA, the No Wilderness/No Action proposals for the Beauty Mountain and Hauser Mountain WSAs, and the Partial Wilderness proposals for the Western and Southern Otay Mountain WSAs is to set forth a pattern of management action in each of the five WSAs. This evolves from a requirement included by Congress in Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) directing the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to review roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more having wilderness characteristics and by 1991 to recommend to the President the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness. In determining these wilderness values, the law directs the Bureau to use the criteria given by Congress in the Wilderness Act of 1964. In Section 2(c) of the Act, Congress states that wilderness is essentially an area of undeveloped Federal land in a natural condition, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

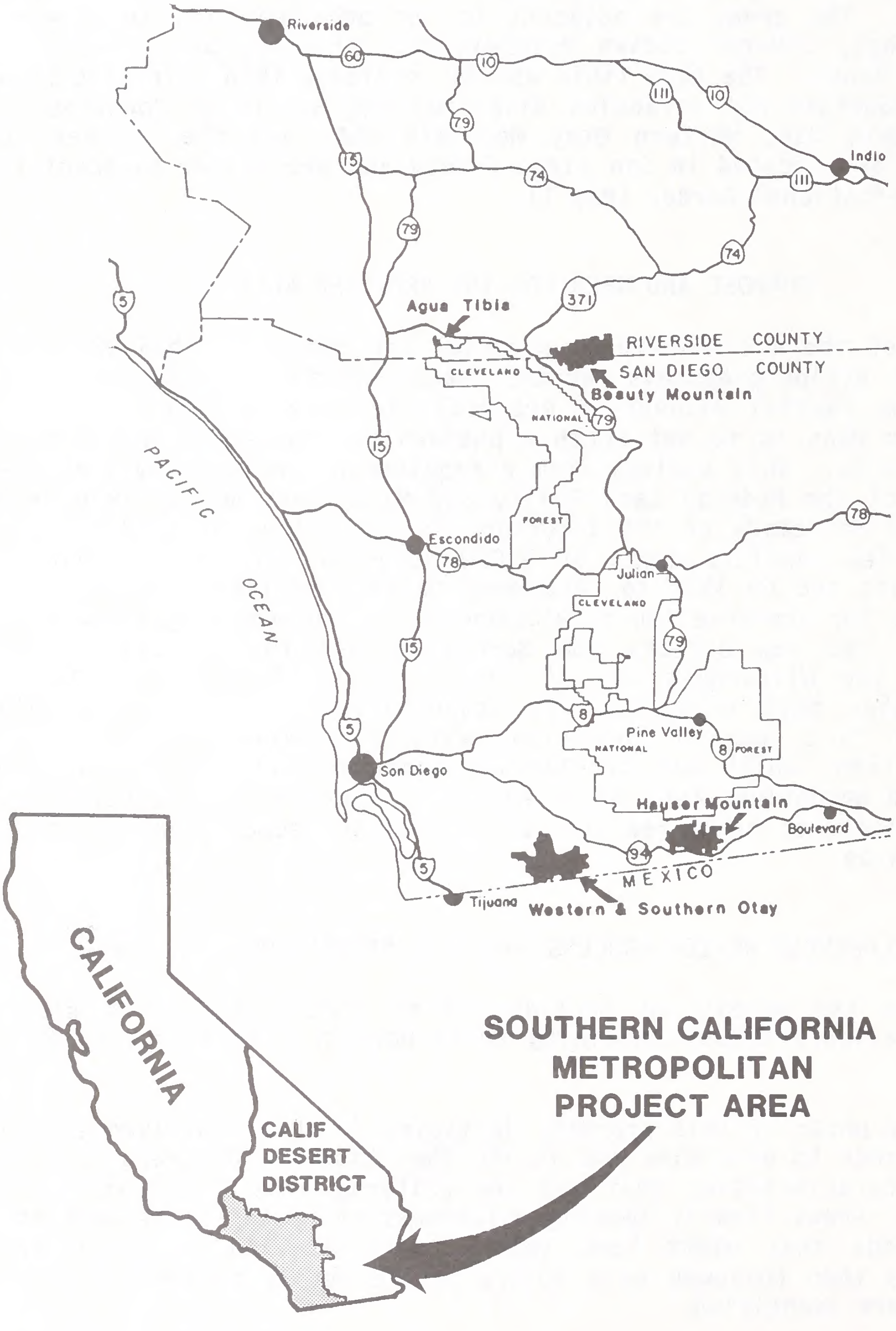
THE WILDERNESS REVIEW PROCESS AND ITS INTEGRATION WITH PLANNING

To accomplish the mandate of Section 603 of FLPMA, the BLM developed a wilderness review process containing three phases: inventory, study, and reporting.

The inventory phase of this process, initiated in 1978, involved examining the public lands to determine and locate the existence of areas containing wilderness characteristics that met the criteria established in the Wilderness Act. Areas clearly lacking wilderness characteristics were sorted out from lands that might have those characteristics. This intensive inventory was then followed by a 90-day public review period, after which final WSAs were identified.

MAP 1

PROJECT AREA LOCATION MAP



This inventory process and a general description of all of California's WSAs are given in Wilderness: Final Intensive Inventory Public Lands Administered by BLM California Outside the California Desert Conservation Area (1979). A copy of this publication is available at any BLM office.

The second step in the review process was to integrate wilderness evaluation into the BLM Planning System (43 CFR 1600), which, in this case, was a Management Framework Plan (MFP) developed for the Escondido-Border Planning Unit in 1976. The wilderness study criteria and quality standards containing the BLM's Wilderness Study Policy: Policies, Criteria and Guidelines for Conducting Wilderness Studies on Public Lands (47 FR 5098-5122) were applied to each WSA.

In addition to the above referenced criteria and standards, issues for discussion were identified through public comment and internal scoping; conflicts were analyzed, and alternatives were developed. See pages 11-16 for a discussion of which alternatives were selected and why as well as issues and alternatives considered but not found to be significant enough for detailed analysis. These alternatives are the basis for analysis of environmental consequences and resource tradeoffs.

Following public review of the draft environmental impact statement, the Desert District, with State Director concurrence, prepared a final environmental impact statement and wilderness study report. These were reviewed by the BLM Director and the Secretary of the Interior, who filed this final EIS and who will make a recommendation to the President. The President has up to two years to make his final recommendation to Congress, which has sole authority to designate an area as wilderness. Until Congress decides whether or not to designate an area as wilderness, the WSAs will be managed in accordance with the Bureau's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (Department of the Interior, December 1979, as amended 1983).

SCOPING

The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 1501.7) and the BLM planning regulations (40 CFR 1600.4-1) require an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. Scoping determines in depth the scope and the significant issues to be analyzed in the EIS and identifies and eliminates from detailed study insignificant issues or issues addressed in earlier environmental reviews. Scoping thus reduces the length of the EIS and emphasizes the real alternatives and impacts.

During this process, the scope and importance of issues related to the proposed action and alternatives were identified. Information obtained during the scoping process was one of the sources used to determine which impact topics would be addressed in detail in this EIS. Additional purposes of the scoping process are to inform affected Federal, state, and local agencies and other interested parties about the proposed project, and to identify existing environmental reports and information related to the impact assessment.

The scoping process involved discussions with the public and resource specialists and managers of BLM and other relevant agencies. Written comments were received and compiled as a result of Federal Register announcements, news releases, mailings, and articles about the proposal. Comments were also solicited during public meetings. In addition, the initial scoping effort has been followed by an effort to continue agency and public involvement throughout the development of this EIS. This section outlines the steps taken by BLM for the scoping and public involvement process for the EIS.

SCOPING PROCESS

Solicitation of public input began in January 1982, with a media release from the California State Office requesting input on identification of energy and mineral potentials in all of the WSAs in the state. On February 24, 1982, a Notice of Intent to conduct a Management Framework Plan (MFP) Amendment was published in the Federal Register. The notice identified the areas to be studied, described the planning process, and listed the disciplines to be represented on the study team. It invited the public to participate by surfacing issues, commenting on the planning criteria, providing information to be considered in the planning process, and commenting on the proposals and analysis incorporated in the draft plan and EIS when developed.

On March 5, 1982, a wilderness study announcement and mailing list renewal notice was sent to over 600 people. The announcement described the current study of the Western Counties WSAs and requested recipients to bring issues and data to BLM's attention. A media release with similar information was distributed on March 10 and 11, 1982.

On May 7, 1982, a Notice of Availability of Planning Criteria for the MFP Amendments was published in the Federal Register. During preparation of the Draft EIS, opportunities were provided to brief the Riverside and San Diego County Boards of Supervisors and provide on-the-ground talks with various interest groups.

A June 4, 1982, Federal Register carried a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in which the Proposed Action and alternatives were summarized and the closing date of the public comment period was identified. The Draft EIS was distributed to 400 people on the Western Counties Wilderness mailing list and to the State Clearinghouse, and contained details on the public hearing as well as the final date for submission of public comments.

On June 5, 1984, the Federal Register carried a Notice of Availability of the Supplemental Draft EIS. This document was distributed to an enlarged mailing list--nearly 650 copies were distributed.

Following the completion of this review, a final set of suitability recommendations was prepared. Those involving Otay Mountain were reviewed in the field on November 2, 1984, with representatives of BLM, the County of San Diego, the City of San Diego, San Diego State University, and the Forest Service. Boundaries were "fine-tuned" on this review, and have been adopted as the Bureau's Proposed Action.

ISSUES SELECTED FOR ANALYSIS

The environmental issues which were identified for analysis in this EIS as a result of the scoping process are presented below by WSA.

Agua Tibia WSA

1. Impact on Wilderness Values. The wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation could benefit from wilderness designation. The same values may be adversely affected by uses and actions that would occur should the Agua Tibia WSA not be designated wilderness. The significance of these beneficial or adverse impacts is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

Beauty Mountain WSA

1. Impact on Wilderness Values. The wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation could benefit from wilderness designation. The same values may be adversely affected by uses and actions that would occur should the Beauty Mountain WSA not be designated wilderness. The significance of these beneficial or adverse impacts is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

2. Impact on Upland Game Species Habitat. The Beauty Mountain WSA provides yearlong habitat for deer and upland game such as Mountain Quail. This habitat could be impacted by uses and actions that would occur should the WSA not be designated wilderness. The significance of these impacts on the area's upland game species habitat is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

3. Impact on Livestock Grazing Operations. Currently, the Beauty Mountain WSA is used for livestock grazing under three existing allotments. Livestock utilization of these three allotments is 150 animal unit months (AUMs). Recently, a prescribed burn of 1,000 acres was proposed to increase the forage allocation. This burn would be prohibited under wilderness designation. The impact of wilderness designation on grazing operations on the Beauty Mountain, Tule Valley, and Rogers Canyon Allotments is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

4. Impact on Motorized Recreation Use Levels. Wilderness designation would eliminate the use of recreational off-road vehicles in the WSA. Eliminating this use could affect the availability of recreation opportunities, particularly hunting, and shift ORV use currently

occurring on the WSA to adjacent lands. The impact of wilderness designation on motorized recreation in the vicinity of the WSA is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

Hauser Mountain WSA

1. Impact on Wilderness Values. The wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation could benefit from wilderness designation. The same values may be adversely affected by uses and actions that would occur should the Hauser Mountain WSA not be designated wilderness. The significance of these beneficial or adverse impacts is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

2. Impact on Sensitive Plant Species. There are six sensitive plant species known to occur within the vicinity of the Hauser Mountain WSA. Only one (*Hemizonia floribunda*) is known to occur in the WSA. This species could benefit from wilderness designation. This species could also be affected by uses and actions that would occur should the WSA not be designated wilderness. The significance of these beneficial or adverse impacts is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

3. Impact on Livestock Grazing Operations. Parts of both the Hauser Mountain and Potrero Allotments are within the Hauser Mountain WSA. Prescribed burns have recently been proposed to increase the forage allocation by 250 animal unit months in the Potrero Allotment and by 500 animal unit months in the Hauser Mountain allotment. Prescribed burns within the WSA would be prohibited under wilderness designation. The impact of wilderness designation on grazing operations on the Potrero and Hauser Mountain Allotments is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

Western Otay Mountain WSA

1. Impact on Wilderness Values. The wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation could benefit from wilderness designation. The same values may be adversely affected by uses and actions that would occur should the Western Otay Mountain WSA not be designated wilderness. The significance of these beneficial or adverse impacts is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

2. Impact on Rare and Sensitive Plant Species. Otay Mountain has long been considered a unique vegetation area. Many rare and significant plants which abound on Otay are of very limited distribution elsewhere. These species could benefit from wilderness designation. The species could also be affected by uses and actions that would occur should the WSA not be designated wilderness. The significance of these beneficial or adverse impacts is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

3. Impact on Least Bell's Vireo Habitat. One of the critical habitats designated for the Least Bell's Vireo, recently listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is located along the lower Otay Reservoir just west of the Western Otay Mountain WSA. Although there are no records

of Least Bell's Vireo in the WSA, the dynamic nature of the willow habitat it utilizes does not preclude its occurrence in the WSA. This habitat could benefit from wilderness designation. It could also be affected by uses and actions that would occur should the WSA not be designated wilderness. The significance of these impacts is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

4. Impact on Livestock Grazing Operations. Approximately 4,500 acres--roughly 80 percent of the Otay Mountain Allotment--is within the Western Otay WSA. A 1,000-acre prescribed burn has recently been proposed to increase forage allocation by 500 animal unit months, tripling the current allocation. Prescribed fires within the WSA would be prohibited under wilderness designation. The impact of wilderness designation on grazing operations on the Otay Mountain Allotment is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

Southern Otay Mountain WSA

1. Impact on Wilderness Values. The wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation could benefit from wilderness designation. The same values may be adversely affected by uses and actions that would occur should the Southern Otay Mountain WSA not be designated wilderness. The significance of these beneficial or adverse impacts is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

2. Impact on Rare and Sensitive Plant Species. Otay Mountain has long been considered a unique vegetation area. Many rare and significant plants which abound on Otay Mountain are of very limited distribution elsewhere. These species could benefit from wilderness designation. The species could also be affected by uses and actions that would occur should the WSA not be designated wilderness. The significance of these beneficial or adverse impacts is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

ISSUES CONSIDERED BUT DROPPED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

The following issues or concerns were identified in scoping but were not selected for detailed analysis in this EIS because after careful study of each, the degree of concern, environmental effect, or relevance was too small to justify further intensive study. The reasons for not analyzing these issues in depth are discussed below by WSA.

Agua Tibia WSA

1. Impact on Fire Suppression Activities. Concerns were raised regarding the constraints wilderness designation would have on fire suppression activities. This issue was considered but dropped from detailed analysis. Although the Bureau's wilderness management policy does impose certain restrictions on suppression measures and techniques, much latitude is allowed so as not to significantly constrain effective fire management.

2. Impact on Federal Candidate RT&E Species. An issue dealing with the Least Bell's Vireo, thought to occur within the Agua Tibia WSA, was considered in the Draft EIS. Further research and more thorough analysis, however, has shown that the species does not occur within the WSA and that suitable habitat is not present. The issue was, therefore, dropped from further consideration.

3. Impact on Geothermal Development. An issue dealing with the effect of geothermal development in the Agua Tibia WSA was considered but dropped from further analysis. No geothermal springs are known to exist within the WSA. In addition, the Mineral Investigation of the Agua Tibia WSA, MLA 11-84 (1984), prepared by U.S.D.I., Bureau of Mines, states that no geothermal resources exist. No geothermal development is, therefore, anticipated.

Beauty Mountain WSA

1. Impact on Fire Suppression Activities. Concerns were raised regarding the constraints wilderness designation would have on fire suppression activities. This issue was considered but dropped from detailed analysis. Although the Bureau's wilderness management policy does impose certain restrictions on suppression measures and techniques, much latitude is allowed so as not to significantly constrain effective fire management.

2. Impact on State-Listed "Rare" Species. An issue dealing with the Stephen's kangaroo rat, thought to occur within the Beauty Mountain WSA was considered in the Draft EIS. Further research and more thorough analysis, however, has shown that the species does not occur within the WSA and that suitable habitat is not present. The WSA is composed exclusively of steep slopes and dense chaparral which do not provide suitable habitat for the species. Flatter areas with less dense vegetation are preferred. The issue was, therefore, dropped from further consideration.

3. Impact on Water Quality. Mining actions are anticipated to occur within the WSA with or without wilderness designation and are described in Chapter 2. These activities, which could result in impacts on water quality, are the result of planning projections only and are not described in the detail that would be required in a plan of operations or for processing a permit. Since various water resources agencies including the EPA and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board as well as the BLM would require an array of mitigation measures to assure proposed projects meet water quality standards required by State and Federal Law, the issue of impacts on water quality is not considered in detail in the EIS. Also considered in our decision to drop the issue of water quality from further analysis was the fact that since existing mining claims would likely be found to be valid under wilderness designation, impacts on water quality would be essentially the same under each of the alternatives.

4. Impact on Preservation of Archaeological Resources. An issue dealing with the impact of wilderness designation on the area's archaeological resources was considered but dropped from further analysis. No archaeological sites have been recorded within the WSA.

Hauser Mountain WSA

1. Impact on Fire Suppression Activities. Concerns were raised regarding the constraints wilderness designation would have on fire suppression activities. This issue was considered but dropped from detailed analysis. Although the Bureau's wilderness management policy does impose certain restrictions on suppression measures and techniques, much latitude is allowed so as not to significantly constrain effective fire management.

2. Impact on U.S. Border Patrol Activities (National Security). An issue dealing with the effect of wilderness designation on U.S. Border Patrol activities within the vicinity of the Hauser Mountain WSA was considered but dropped from detailed analysis. Although the area is within one mile of the International Border, the area is surrounded by public roads available for motorized patrols including State Highway 94 which passes between the International Border and WSA. These roads are currently used by the U.S. Border Patrol for patrol purposes.

3. Impact on Wildlife Populations. An issue dealing with wildlife in general was considered but dropped from further analysis in the EIS because no specific impacts on populations or the habitat of any specific species were identified by the EIS team or the public. Based on the projection of development in the WSA, little or no change in wildlife populations or habitat is anticipated because activity levels with or without wilderness designation affect no major species in any way other than very marginally.

Western Otay Mountain WSA

1. Impact on Fire Suppression Activities. Concerns were raised regarding the constraints wilderness designation would have on fire suppression activities. This issue was considered but dropped from detailed analysis. Although the Bureau's wilderness management policy does impose certain restrictions on suppression measures and techniques, much latitude is allowed so as not to significantly constrain effective fire management.

2. Impact on Wildlife Populations. An issue dealing with wildlife in general was considered but dropped from further analysis in the EIS because no specific impacts on populations or the habitat of any specific species were identified by the EIS team or the public. Based on the projection of development in the WSA, little or no change in wildlife populations or habitat is anticipated because activity levels with or without wilderness designation affect no major species in any way other than very marginally.

3. Impact on U.S. Border Patrol Activities (National Security). An issue dealing with the effect of wilderness designation on U.S. Border Patrol activities within the vicinity of the Western Otay Mountain WSA was considered but dropped from detailed analysis. The most suitable route in the area for motorized vehicle patrols is the Otay Mountain Truck Trail which passes between this WSA and the Southern Otay Mountain WSA. This route is currently used by the U.S. Border Patrol and would remain available for motorized patrols regardless of whether the WSA is or is not designated wilderness.

4. Impact on Archaeological Resources. An Issue dealing with the impacts of wilderness designation on the area's archaeological resources was considered but dropped from further analysis. No archaeological sites have been recorded within the WSA.

5. Impact on Raptor Habitat. The Otay Mountain area is a prime foraging and breeding area for raptors including the Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk. The area is also used occasionally by Marsh Hawks, Golden Eagles, and White-tailed Kites. The issue of impacts on these species was considered but dropped from detailed analysis because these species are relatively common and geographically widespread and they would be impacted only negligibly by the management action under the various alternatives.

Southern Otay Mountain WSA

1. Impact on Fire Suppression Activities. Concerns were raised regarding the constraints wilderness designation would have on fire suppression activities. This issue was considered but dropped from detailed analysis. Although the Bureau's wilderness management policy does impose certain restrictions on suppression measures and techniques, much latitude is allowed so as not to significantly constrain effective fire management.

2. Impact on Wildlife Populations. An issue dealing with wildlife in general was considered but dropped from further analysis in the EIS because no specific impacts on populations or the habitat of any specific species were identified by the EIS team or the public. Based on the projection of development in the WSA, little or no change in wildlife populations or habitat is anticipated because activity levels with or without wilderness designation affect no major species in any way other than very marginally.

3. Impact on U.S. Border Patrol Activities (National Security). An issue dealing with the effect of wilderness designation on U.S. Border Patrol activities within the vicinity of the Southern Otay Mountain WSA was considered but dropped from detailed analysis. The most suitable route in the area for motorized vehicle patrols is the Otay Mountain Truck Trail which passes between this WSA and the Western

Otay Mountain WSA. This route is currently used by the U.S. Border Patrol and would remain available for motorized patrols regardless of whether the WSA is or is not designated wilderness.

4. Impact on Archaeological Resources. An issue dealing with the impacts of wilderness designation on the area's archaeological resources was considered but dropped from further analysis. No archaeological sites have been recorded within the WSA.

5. Impact on Livestock Grazing Operations. About 100 acres, or approximately 2 percent of the WSA is within a grazing allotment. From a practical standpoint the WSA will experience little if any grazing with or without wilderness designation. Therefore, the issue of impact on livestock grazing operations was dropped from further consideration.

6. Impact on Raptor Habitat. The Otay Mountain area is a prime foraging and breeding area for raptors including the Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk. The area is also used occasionally by Marsh Hawks, Golden Eagles, and White-tailed Kites. The issue of impacts on these species was considered but dropped from detailed analysis because these species are relatively common and geographically widespread and they would be impacted only negligibly by the management action under the various alternatives.

SELECTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

Development of the Proposed Actions is guided by requirements of the Bureau's Planning Regulations, 43 CFR Part 1600. The BLM's Wilderness Study Policy (published February 2, 1982, in the Federal Register) supplements the planning regulations by providing specific factors to be considered during the planning sequence in developing suitability recommendations.

Outlined below are the Proposed Actions and Alternatives developed for the Agua Tibia, Beauty Mountain, Hauser Mountain and Western and Southern Otay Mountain WSAs selected for analysis.

Agua Tibia WSA

The Proposed Action for the Agua Tibia WSA is All Wilderness. Under this proposal, all 360 acres will be designated wilderness--the maximum possible acreage that could be recommended for wilderness designation.

The rationale for this proposal are: (1) the area is in a nearly undisturbed natural state and possesses outstanding wilderness values; (2) it is a logical extension of the Forest Service's existing wilderness area--the Agua Tibia Wilderness; (3) designation will not adversely affect any existing uses within the wilderness area; and (4) no significant conflicts with other resource uses will result from designation.

One alternative was also considered--a No Wilderness/No Action Alternative which would not designate any of the area's 360 acres as wilderness. Under this alternative, the area would be managed for multiple use as described in this document and the Escondido-Border Management Framework Plan (MFP), 1976.

Beauty Mountain WSA

The Proposed Action for the Beauty Mountain WSA is No Wilderness/No Action. Under this proposal, none of the area's 11,342 areas will be designated wilderness. The entire area will continue to be managed for multiple use as described in this document and the Escondido-Border MFP.

The rationale for this proposal are: (1) the wilderness values for most of the area are not outstanding; (2) the current use levels have had no detrimental effect on the wilderness values the area possesses; (3) ORV use levels, coupled with the area's lack of public motorized access, will not increase enough to significantly affect these values; (4) current management has proven effective in maintaining the area's existing resources; and (5) no significant conflicts have been identified.

Two alternatives were also considered--an All Wilderness Alternative, and a Partial Wilderness Alternative.

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 11,342 acres would be designated wilderness. This alternative represents the maximum possible acreage that could be recommended for wilderness designation.

Under the Partial Wilderness Alternative, 6,190 acres would be designated as wilderness; 5,152 acres would not be designated but managed for multiple use under the Escondido-Border MFP.

Hauser Mountain WSA

The Proposed Action for Hauser Mountain WSA is No Wilderness/No Action. Under this proposal none of the area's 5,489 acres of public land will be designated wilderness. The entire area will continue to be managed for multiple use as described in this document and the Escondido-Border MFP.

The rationale for this proposal are: (1) the wilderness values for most of the area are not outstanding; (2) the current use levels have had no detrimental effect on the wilderness values the area possesses; (3) ORV use levels, coupled with the area's lack of public motorized access, will not increase enough to significantly affect these values; (4) current management has proven effective in maintaining the area's existing resources; and (5) no significant conflicts have been identified.

One alternative was also considered--an All Wilderness Alternative which would designate all 5,489 acres as wilderness. The All Wilderness Alternative represents the maximum possible acreage that could be recommended for wilderness designation.

Western Otay Mountain WSA

The Proposed Action for the Western Otay Mountain WSA is Partial Wilderness. Under this proposal 4,110 acres will be designated wilderness. Three areas totaling 1,640 acres will not be designated wilderness but will be managed for multiple use as described in this document and the Escondido-Border MFP.

The rationale for this proposal are: (1) the lands proposed for designation contain outstanding wilderness values; (2) the lands proposed for designation possess unique vegetational character due to their relatively large stands of Tecate cypress--a rare plant indigenous to only a few localities in California and Mexico--and other rare and significant plants; (3) the lands proposed for multiple use management do not possess outstanding wilderness values; (4) the deletion of the lands proposed for multiple use would improve manageability by placing the boundary along recognizable topographic features; (5) public sentiment overwhelmingly supported wilderness designation; and (6) designation would provide metropolitan San Diego with an adjacent 11,000-acre wilderness area, an exceptional "close-in" wilderness opportunity.

The Proposed Action differs from the Proposed Action which was analyzed in the Draft EIS issued in 1982 and the Proposed Action which was analyzed in the Supplemental Draft EIS issued in 1984. Under the Proposed Action outlined in the Draft EIS, 5,615 acres of the WSA were recommended as suitable for wilderness and 135 acres were not. In the Supplemental Draft EIS, the Proposed Action was revised to recommend the WSA for ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern) designation instead of partial wilderness because of what were perceived to be conflicts between fire control and wilderness management. The Bureau now recognizes that the conflicts between the two are not as severe as they were stated in the Supplement Draft EIS and has revised the Proposed Action to designate 4,110 acres wilderness and manage the remaining 1,640 acres for multiple use.

Two alternatives were also considered--an All Wilderness Alternative, and a No Wilderness/No Action Alternative.

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 5,750 acres would be designated wilderness. This alternative represents the maximum possible acreage that could be recommended for wilderness designation.

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative none of the 5,750 acres would be designated wilderness. The entire area would be managed for multiple use as described in this document and in the Escondido-Border MFP.

Southern Otay Mountain WSA

The Proposed Action for the Southern Otay Mountain WSA is Partial Wilderness. Under this proposal, 6,980 acres will be designated wilderness; four areas totaling 960 acres will not be designated wilderness but will be managed for multiple use as described in this document and the Escondido-Border MFP.

The rationale for this proposal are the same as described for the Western Otay Mountain WSA on p. 13.

The Proposed Action differs from the Proposed Action which was analyzed in the Draft EIS issued in 1982 and the Proposed Action which was analyzed in the Supplemental Draft EIS issued in 1984. Under the Proposed Action outlined in the Draft EIS, 5,608 acres of the WSA were recommended as suitable for wilderness and 2,332 acres were not. In the Supplemental Draft EIS, the Proposed Action was revised to recommend the WSA for ACEC designation instead of partial wilderness because of what were perceived to be conflicts between fire control and wilderness management. These conflicts are now recognized not to be as severe as they were stated in the Supplemental Draft EIS. Therefore, the Proposed Action has again been revised to designate 6,980 acres wilderness and manage the remaining 960 acres for multiple use.

Two alternatives were also considered--an All Wilderness Alternative, and a No Wilderness/No Action Alternative.

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 7,940 acres would be designated wilderness. This alternative represents the maximum possible acreage that could be recommended for wilderness designation.

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative, none of the 7,940 acres would be designated wilderness. The entire area would be managed for multiple use as described in this document and the Escondido-Border MFP.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT DROPPED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

Agua Tibia WSA

No additional alternatives were considered for the Agua Tibia WSA because of its small size, compact shape, and lack of significant resource conflicts.

Beauty Mountain WSA

One alternative for the Beauty Mountain WSA which was analyzed in both the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIS was considered but dropped from further analysis--a Partial Wilderness Alternative in which 9,232 acres were recommended wilderness and 2,110 acres were not (Alternative 3 Partial Wilderness Alternative A). This alternative was dropped because the analysis of impacts in both the DEIS and Supplemental DEIS revealed that the effects of this alternative would be no different from those of the Proposed Action.

Hauser Mountain WSA

No additional alternatives were considered for the Hauser Mountain WSA because of its size, compact shape, and lack of significant resource conflicts.

Western Otay Mountain WSA

Two alternatives for the Western Otay Mountain WSA which were analyzed in the Draft and Supplemental Draft EISs were considered but dropped from further analysis--a Partial Wilderness Alternative in which 5,615 acres were recommended suitable and 136 acres were not (the Proposed Action in the 1982 DEIS and Alternatives A and B/Alternatives 3 and 5 in the Supplemental DEIS) and a No Wilderness/ACEC Designation (Alternative 2 in the 1982 DEIS and the Proposed Action in the Supplemental DEIS). The Partial Wilderness Alternative was created to examine the impact of deleting a small, 135-acre parcel in the extreme southwestern side of the WSA for the purpose of improving the manageability of the WSA. The analysis of impacts in both the DEIS and Supplemental DEIS revealed that the effects of this alternative would be no different from those of the Proposed Action. Since it was not a truly different alternative, it has been eliminated from the Final EIS. The No Wilderness/ACEC Designation Alternative was created to examine the impact of designating the area as an ACEC since there were perceived to be conflicts between wilderness designation and the effective management of the area's unique vegetation. These conflicts are now recognized to be less severe than they were originally perceived. In addition, subsequent analysis of the impacts revealed that the effects of this alternative would be no different than the Proposed Action. It has, therefore, been eliminated from the Final EIS.

Southern Otay Mountain WSA

Three alternatives for the Southern Otay Mountain WSA which were analyzed in the Draft and Supplemental Draft EISs were considered but dropped from further analysis--a Partial Wilderness Alternative in which 5,608 acres were recommended suitable and 2,332 acres were not (the Proposed Action in the 1982 DEIS and Partial Wilderness Alternative B/Alternative 5 in the Supplemental DEIS), a Partial Wilderness Alternative in which 7,316 acres were recommended suitable and 624 acres were not (the Partial Wilderness Alternative/Alternative 8 in the 1982 DEIS and Partial Wilderness Alternative A/Alternative 8 in the Supplemental DEIS), and a No Wilderness/ACEC Designation Alternative (Alternative 2 in the 1982 DEIS and the Proposed Action in the Supplemental DEIS). The first Partial Wilderness Alternative (5,608 acres, suitable) was created to examine the impact of deleting 2,332 acres from the eastern portion of the WSA for the purpose of improving the manageability of the WSA. This portion of the WSA was nearly wholly separated from the western three-quarters of the WSA by a long, narrow, 1,500-acre strip of private land. This strip has since been acquired, eliminating any manageability problems. The alternative has, therefore, been eliminated.

The other Partial Wilderness Alternative (7,316 acres, suitable) was created to examine the impact of deleting, several small, and narrow parcels of land in the extreme western and eastern sides of the WSA for the purpose of improving the manageability of the WSA. The analysis of impacts in both the DEIS and the Supplemental DEIS revealed that the effects of this alternative would be no different from those of the Proposed Action. Since it was not a truly different alternative, it has been eliminated from the Final EIS.

The No Wilderness/ACEC Designation Alternative was deleted for the same reasons outlined above under the Western Otay WSA.

Chapter 2

Proposed Actions & Alternatives

CHAPTER 2

THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Since the pattern of future actions within the WSAs cannot be predicted with certainty, we have made projections of management actions to allow the analysis of impacts under the Proposed Action and alternatives. These represent reasonably feasible patterns of activities which could occur under the Proposed Action and alternatives analyzed.

AGUA TIBIA WSA
(CA-060-002)

PROPOSED ACTION (ALL WILDERNESS)

All 360 acres of public land in the Agua Tibia WSA are recommended for wilderness designation (see Map 2) and will be combined with the adjacent Agua Tibia Wilderness Area in the Cleveland National Forest. Under this proposal, the entire WSA will be closed to recreational ORV use and managed to provide a primitive setting for nonmotorized recreation. Discretionary management actions will be permitted but only to preserve or enhance the area's wilderness values.

Recreational Use Management Actions

The Agua Tibia WSA will be closed to recreational ORV use. No vehicle use currently occurs in the WSA and none is anticipated to occur. Under this proposal, the WSA will be managed to provide a primitive setting and to allow nonmotorized recreational pursuits such as hiking, photography, and primitive camping. Projections indicate that nonmotorized use will increase over the current 1,000 visitor days annually, but will remain at levels below 1,250 visitor use days for the foreseeable future.

No camping, picnic sites, or other recreational facilities exist within the WSA and none are planned. A quarter-mile segment of a trail which traverses the northern portion of the WSA will be maintained using hand tools.

Vegetation Management Actions

No vegetation management actions are planned for the Agua Tibia WSA under the Proposed Action.

Fire Management Actions

Under this proposal, a fire management plan will be written for the WSA. It will become an addendum to the Wilderness Management Plan which will be prepared by the USDA - Forest Service's Cleveland National Forest. Fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and ground crews will be used for fire control. Cross-country vehicle travel will be permitted, but only when the terrain and surface conditions will permit such travel without damage to vegetation cover and only with the approval of the (District Manager/Forest Supervisor). Heavy equipment such as tracked vehicles and dozers will not be permitted except to prevent loss of human life or to protect private or high-value property.

Wildlife Management Actions

Under the Proposed Action, a wildlife inventory will be conducted and monitoring activities will continue. Inventories and monitoring will emphasize deer and include annual pellet transects and the monitoring of hunter success rates.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

Under the Proposed Action, academic research projects will not be precluded but artifact collection or site excavation will be prohibited.

Mineral Development Actions

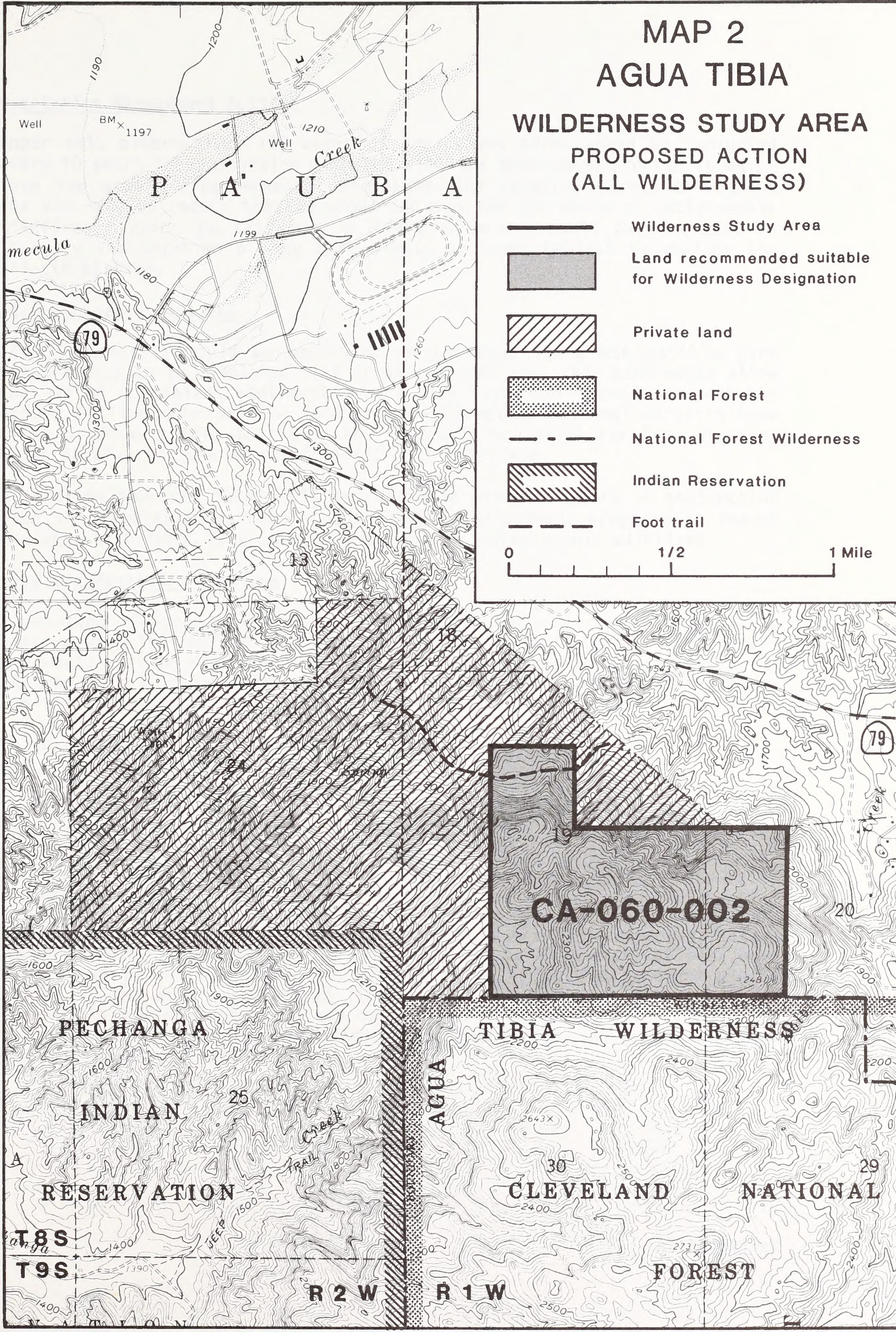
Upon designation of the area as wilderness, all 360 acres will be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws.

NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

All 360 areas of public land in the Agua Tibia WSA would not be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Under this alternative the lands would be managed in accordance with the existing Escondido-Border MFP (1976). Land would be designated closed to recreational ORV use and managed to provide a primitive setting for nonmotorized recreational use. Full fire suppression using mechanized equipment would be practiced and 100 acres of prescribed burning would be conducted.

Recreational Use Management Actions

The recreational use management actions for the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would be the same as those described under the Proposed Action on p. 17.



MAP 2
AGUA TIBIA
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
PROPOSED ACTION (ALL WILDERNESS)

Vegetation Management Actions

Under this alternative, 100 acres of prescribed burns would be conducted every 10 years in conjunction with the wildlife management program to maintain the area's fire-dependent ecosystem--the chaparral found throughout the WSA--and to reduce the fuelwood load and the incidence of catastrophic wildfires. Prior to this burn a field inventory would be conducted to identify the location of any rare plants or their habitat to monitor the effects of fire.

Fire Management Actions

Fire suppression would be practiced in the Agua Tibia WSA until a fire management plan is completed. It is anticipated that this plan would allow the use of mechanized equipment. Full fire suppression would prevent the spread of fire onto private land and the Cleveland National Forest's Agua Tibia Wilderness Area to the south. Support facilities for fire fighting would involve the use of public lands within the WSA.

A rotating 100-acre burn would be conducted every 10 years in conjunction with the vegetation management and wildlife management programs to reduce the area's fuelwood load and the incidence of catastrophic wildfires.

Wildlife Management Actions

A rotating 100-acre prescribed burn would be conducted every 10 years to improve wildlife habitat under this alternative. Inventories and monitoring would also be conducted. These actions would emphasize deer and would include annual pellet transects and the monitoring of hunter success rates and the successional changes induced by the controlled burns.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

Prior to undergoing any surface-disturbing activities in the WSA, a field inventory would be conducted to locate, identify, and evaluate any significant archaeological resources. Academic research projects (artifact collection and excavation) would be permitted.

Mineral Development Actions

Under this alternative the WSA would be open to all forms of appropriation under the Mining and Mineral Leasing Laws. Mineral investigations, however, have revealed no mines or prospects and no past or present mining claims in the area. No gem or lithium-bearing pegmatites have been discovered in the WSA, nor have any sand, gravel, or energy (oil, gas, coal, or geothermal) resources been identified. No mineral or energy development is, therefore, anticipated.

BEAUTY MOUNTAIN WSA
(CA-060-020G)

PROPOSED ACTION (NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION)

All 11,342 acres of public land in the Beauty Mountain WSA will not be recommended for wilderness designation (see Map 3). Under this proposal, these lands will be managed in accordance with the existing Escondido-Border MFP, 1976). The WSA would remain open to ORV use but vehicles will be restricted to designated roads and trails. Full fire suppression using mechanized equipment would be practiced and existing livestock use would be maintained at the existing level of 150 animal unit months. Mineral development will occur but will be limited to approximately 200 acres in the south-central portion of the WSA.

Recreational Use Management Actions

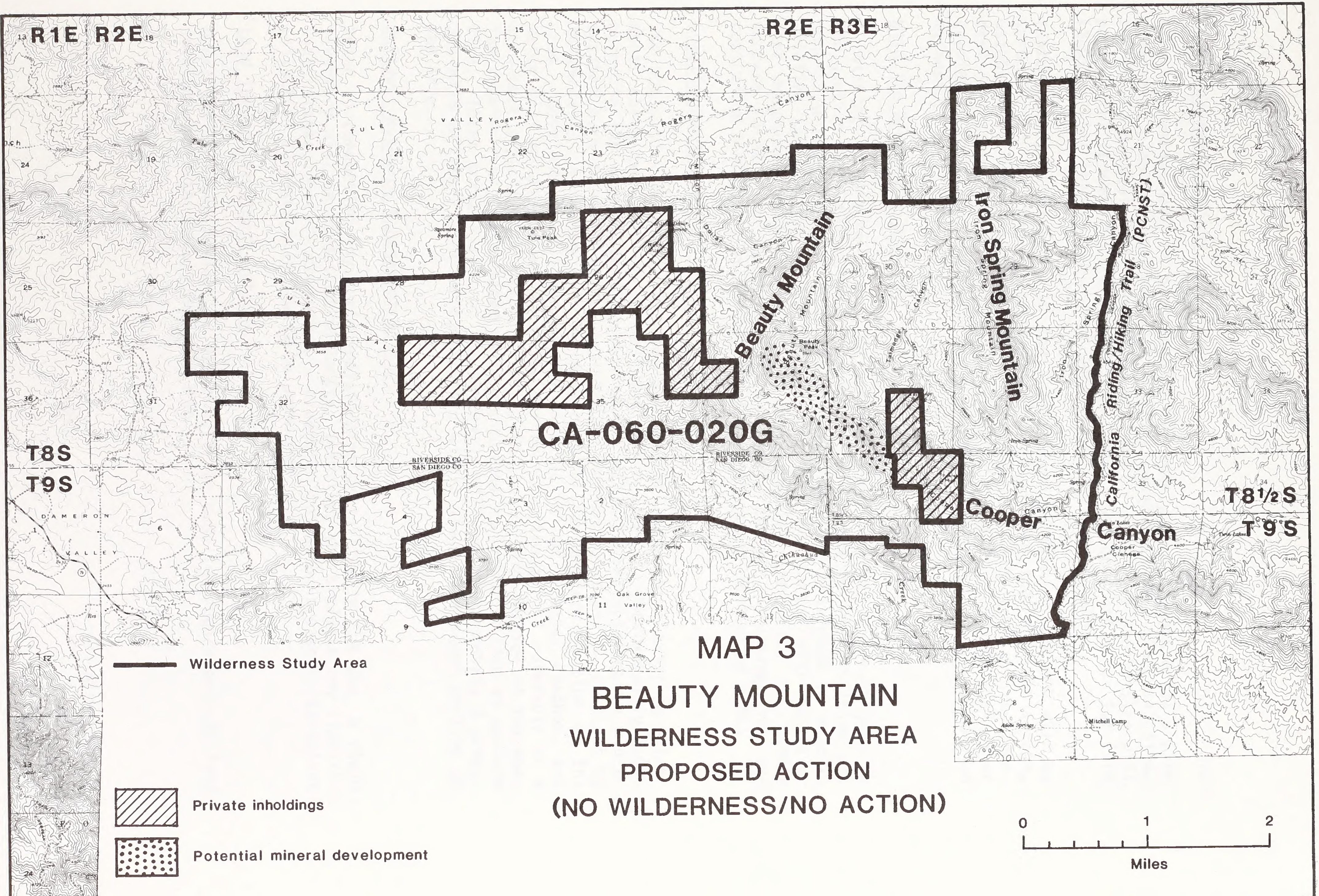
The WSA will be designated "limited" for ORV use; all vehicle routes not specifically closed to ORV use will remain open. It is anticipated that approximately one-fourth of the existing road system (6 miles) will be designated "closed" because of existing road hazards, environmental concerns such as soil erosion, and conflicts with other nonmotorized recreational uses eliminating approximately 25 visitor days of ORV use per year. The remaining 17 miles of vehicle routes will remain open for ORV use. These roads receive 75 visitor days of ORV use annually. This use is expected to remain constant over the foreseeable future. Motorized hunting accounts for an additional 100 visitor days of ORV use and is also expected to remain constant.

The WSA will also be open for nonmotorized recreation activities including hunting, backpacking, hiking, and horseback riding. The bulk of this use is concentrated along the California Riding and Hiking Trail, and the temporary route of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCNST), which forms the eastern border of the WSA. This area currently receives 1,000 visitor days annually. This use is expected to diminish to 500 visitor days annually once the permanent route for the PCNST is constructed in 1987. Nonmotorized recreation use outside the California Riding and Hiking Trail corridor will also remain at current low levels--less than 100 visitor days annually--a consequence of access limitation. Approximately all of this use is devoted to nonmotorized hunting.

Other than the California Riding and Hiking Trail, no other recreational facilities exist within the WSA and none are planned.

Vegetation Management Actions

Under the Proposed Action, prescribed burns will be allowed to maintain fire-dependent ecosystems and to increase livestock forage. A field inventory will be conducted to identify the location of sensitive plant species or their habitats to monitor the effect of fire. It is anticipated that 1,000 acres will be burned every 10 years in conjunction with the fire management, livestock grazing, and wildlife management programs in the northeastern portion of the WSA.



MAP 3

BEAUTY MOUNTAIN

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
PROPOSED ACTION
(NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION)

Fire Management Actions

Fire suppression will be practiced in the Beauty Mountain WSA until a fire management plan is completed. It is anticipated that this plan will allow the use of mechanized fire-fighting equipment. Full fire suppression will prevent the spread of fire onto private land. Support facilities for fire fighting will involve the use of public lands within the WSA.

Approximately 1,000 acres in the northeastern portion of the WSA will be burned every 10 year to improve livestock grazing and wildlife forage, establish fuel hazard reduction cells, and maintain the area's fire-dependent ecosystem. These burns will be limited to 30 to 50 acres to minimize erosion. Preference will be given to the least disturbing suppression methods.

Wildlife Management Actions

A rotating 1,000-acre controlled burn will be conducted every 10 year in conjunction with the vegetation program to improve browse condition and general wildlife values. Two water sources will be developed to benefit wildlife and grazing values. Inventories and monitoring will emphasize deer management and will include annual pellet transects, and hunter success rates. The successional changes in habitat resulting from the controlled burns will be monitored using photographic monitoring plots.

Grazing Management Actions

The WSA will continue to be used for grazing under three existing allotments for a total of 150 Animal Unit Months (AUMs). Approximately 1,000 acres in the northeastern portion of the WSA will be subjected to a prescribed burn every 10 years, potentially increasing forage allocations by 30 percent. A spring will be developed in the eastern portion of the area. Development will entail the installation of a metal headbox, and water will be piped away from the spring to a trough. A reservoir of 8 acre-feet capacity will be constructed in the western portion of the WSA. The reservoir will be created using mechanized equipment to form an eastern dike. Total surface area of the reservoir will be approximately 2 acres. One mile of fence will be constructed within the northeastern portion of the area.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

Prior to conducting any surface-disturbing activities in the WSA, a field inventory will be conducted to locate, identify, and evaluate any significant archaeological resources. Academic research projects (artifact collection and excavation) will be permitted.

Land Tenure Adjustment Actions

Under the Proposed Action, no effort will be made to acquire private land located within the Beauty Mountain WSA.

Mineral Development Actions

The WSA contains known deposits of tungsten and very minor amounts of gold. The most valuable deposits of these minerals are in the southeastern portion of the WSA. Historic production of tungsten within the unit has occurred at the Pawnee Mine, a patented mining claim also located in the southeastern portion of the WSA. Several other claims and prospect pits are located along the southern boundary of the WSA in T. 9 S., R. 3 E., Sections 4 and 5. These prospects and mines occur on and around a fault zone southeast of Beauty Mountain Peak.

Under the Proposed Action it is assumed that mining exploration and development will occur. The fault zone, numerous pegmatite intrusive views, and the numerous mine prospects indicate that some mineralization is present. The nature of this deposit (i.e. the fault zone) indicates that if mining does occur it will be confined to a narrow band along the fault (see Map 3, p. 23) and will disturb approximately 200 acres as a result of stripping. Such stripping will follow the fault on the contact between the metamorphic and igneous rock bodies and will be limited to the south faces of the ridgelines or valley areas depending on location of the outcrops. Approximately 1 mile of an existing route will be upgraded and maintained as a service road in the vicinity of the Pawnee Mine. Another 1 mile of road will be constructed to provide access northwest of the mine.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

All 11,342 acres of public land in the Beauty Mountain WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Under this alternative the area would be managed to provide a primitive setting and enhance nonmotorized recreation use. Grazing would continue at existing levels although no prescribed burns would be conducted and 200 acres in the southwestern portion of the WSA would be mined.

Recreational Use Management Actions

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, the WSA would be managed to provide a primitive setting and enhance nonmotorized uses such as hiking, backpacking, equestrian use, and nature study. The area would be closed to motorized recreational use eliminating approximately 200 visitor days of recreational ORV use that are estimated to occur in the area annually. Three miles of existing vehicle routes needed for mining and grazing operation purposes would be maintained, but the remaining 21 miles would be closed and rehabilitated. It is estimated that approximately 10 miles of the routes to be closed would require disc-plowing and reseeding to accomplish reclamation. The remaining closed vehicle routes would be reclaimed through natural processes.

Nonmotorized recreational uses would increase from the current 500 visitor days per year to over 750 visitor days. Although motorized hunting use would be excluded, opportunities for high quality, back-country hunting utilizing horse or foot access would increase from the current 50 visitor days estimated to occur annually to nearly 100 visitor days.

Vegetation Management Actions

Under this alternative, prescribed burns would be allowed to maintain fire-dependent ecosystems. Helicopter/helitorch would be used, but no mechanized ground equipment. A field inventory would be conducted to identify the location of sensitive plant species or their habitats to monitor the effect of fire. It is anticipated that 250 acres would be burned every 10 years.

Fire Management Actions

Under this proposal, a fire management plan would be written for the WSA. It will become an addendum to the Wilderness Management Plan which will be prepared by the USDA - Forest Service's Cleveland National Forest. Fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and ground crews would be used for fire control. Cross-country vehicle travel would be permitted, but only when the terrain and surface conditions would permit such travel without damage to vegetation cover and only with the approval of the (District Manager/ Forest Supervisor). Heavy equipment such as tracked vehicles and dozers would not be permitted except to prevent loss of human life or to protect private or high-value property.

Approximately 250 acres would be burned every 10 years to maintain fire-dependent ecosystems. These burns would be limited to 30- to 50-acre patches to minimize erosion.

Wildlife Management Actions

No controlled burns would be conducted under this alternative for the purpose of wildlife management. One water source would be developed to benefit wildlife and grazing values. Inventories and monitoring would emphasize deer management and include annual pellet transects and the monitoring of hunter success rates.

Grazing Management Actions

The management actions for the All Wilderness Alternatives would be basically the same as those described under the Proposed Action; however, no prescribed burns would be conducted to increase forage.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, inventory and resource evaluations would continue. Access would be granted to qualified researchers for on-foot field surveys and resource documentation, but artifact collection and site excavations would be prohibited.

Land Tenure Adjustment Actions

Under this alternative, every effort would be made to acquire private lands located within the Beauty Mountain WSA. Lands would be acquired through exchange and/or purchase in an effort to eliminate private inholdings and consolidate public lands within the WSA. The private lands defined suitable for acquisition are located as follows: T. 8 S., R. 2 E., SBM, Section 26: W½NE¼, N½NW¼, SW¼NW¼, NW¼SW¼, SE¼; Section 27: SE¼; Section 33: NE¼; Section 34: S½NE¼ NW¼NE¼, NW¼; and Section 36: SW¼NW¼. These lands total approximately 1,200 acres.

Private access along existing routes would be provided to these parcels until they are acquired.

Mineral Development Actions

Upon designation of the area as wilderness, all 11,342 acres would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the Mining and Mineral Leasing Laws, subject to valid existing rights. Validity exams would be conducted and it is assumed that those claims located within the WSA along the fault zone would be found valid and would be developed. Development would be confined to a narrow band along the fault and would disturb approximately 200 acres as a result of stripping. Stripping would follow the fault of the contact between the metamorphic and igneous rock bodies and would be limited to the south faces of the ridgelines or valley area depending on the location of the outcrops. Approximately 1 mile of an existing route would be upgraded and maintained as a service road in the vicinity of the Pawnee Mine. Another 1 mile of road would be constructed to provide access northwest of the mine.

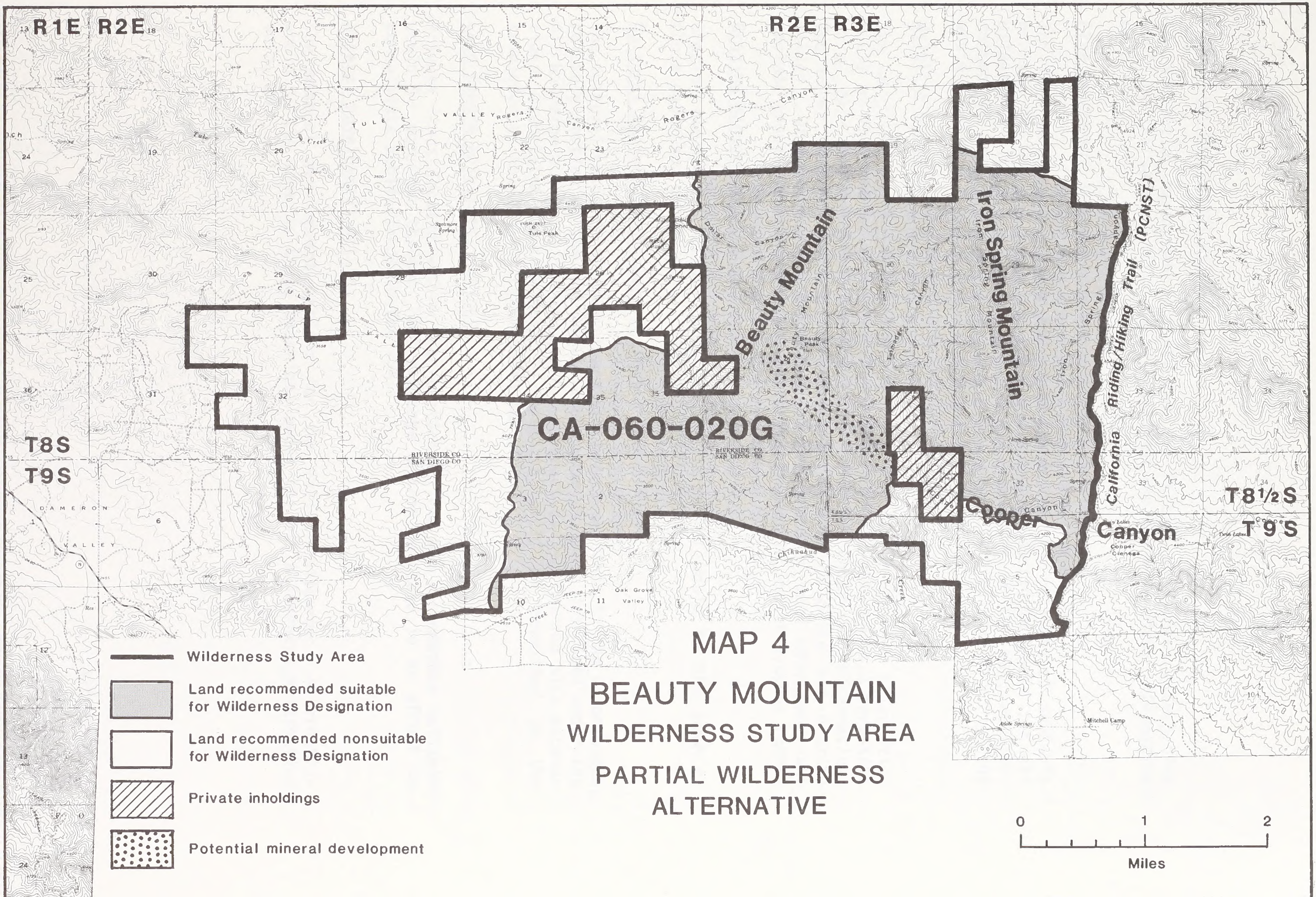
PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

A total of 6,190 acres of public land in the Beauty Mountain WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation; 5,152 acres of public land in the western half of the WSA would not be designated wilderness but managed for multiple use in accordance with the Escondido-Border MFP (see Map 4). Under this alternative, approximately half of the WSA would be closed to motorized vehicle use; the remainder would be designated as "limited" to motorized vehicle use. Grazing would continue at existing levels although no prescribed burns would be conducted and 200 acres in the southwestern portion of the WSA would be mined.

Recreational Use Management Actions

Under the Partial Wilderness Alternative 16 miles of existing routes in the 6,190 acres of the areas recommended as suitable would be closed, eliminating 150 visitor days of ORV use annually. The remaining 5,152 acres of the WSA would be designated as "limited" for ORV use. Seven miles of vehicle routes would be approved for motorized vehicle use. Recreational ORV use along these routes would increase slightly from the estimated 50 visitor days annually to less than 75 visitor days.

Nonmotorized recreational use would increase from the current 500 visitor days per year to over 750 visitor days. Although motorized hunting would be limited, opportunities for high quality, back-country hunting utilizing horse or foot access would increase from the current 50 visitor days estimated to occur annually, to nearly 100 visitor days.



MAP 4

BEAUTY MOUNTAIN

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Vegetation Management Actions

The vegetation management actions for the Partial Wilderness Alternative would be the same as those described under the All Wilderness Alternative on p. 27.

Fire Management Actions

The fire management action for those lands in the recommended suitable portion of the WSA would be the same as those described under the All Wilderness Alternative on p. 27. On the remainder of the WSA, however, mechanized equipment would be used. Support facilities for fire-fighting would involve the use of public lands within the WSA.

Wildlife Management Actions

The wildlife management actions for the Partial Wilderness Alternative would be the same as those described under the All wilderness Alternative on p. 27. No controlled burns would be conducted under this alternative. Two water sources would be developed to benefit wildlife and grazing values. Inventories and monitoring would emphasize deer management and include annual pellet transects and the monitoring of hunter success rates.

Grazing Management Actions

Grazing management actions under this alternative would be the same as those described under the All Wilderness Alternative.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

The cultural resource management actions for those lands in the recommended suitable portion of the WSA would be the same as those described under the All Wilderness Alternative on p. 27. Artifact collection and site excavations associated with scientific research would be permitted on the remainder of the WSA not recommended suitable.

Land Tenure Adjustment Actions

Private lands located within that portion of the WSA recommended suitable would be acquired through land exchange and/or purchase in an effort to consolidate public lands in the WSA.

Mineral Development Actions

The mineral development actions for the Partial Wilderness Alternative would be the same as those described under the All Wilderness Alternative on p. 28.

HAUSER MOUNTAIN WSA
(CA-060-027C)

PROPOSED ACTION (NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION)

All 5,489 acres of public land in the Hauser Mountain WSA will not be recommended for wilderness designation (see Map 5). Under the proposal, these lands will be managed in accordance with the existing Escondido-Border MFP, 1976. Under the Proposed Action, management will be directed toward enhancing nonmotorized recreation opportunities on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCNST). Livestock grazing will continue at current levels of 166 animal unit months (AUMs) over the immediate future, but will be increased once prescribed burns are initiated. These will be conducted on 1,000 acres on a rotating basis, every 10 years.

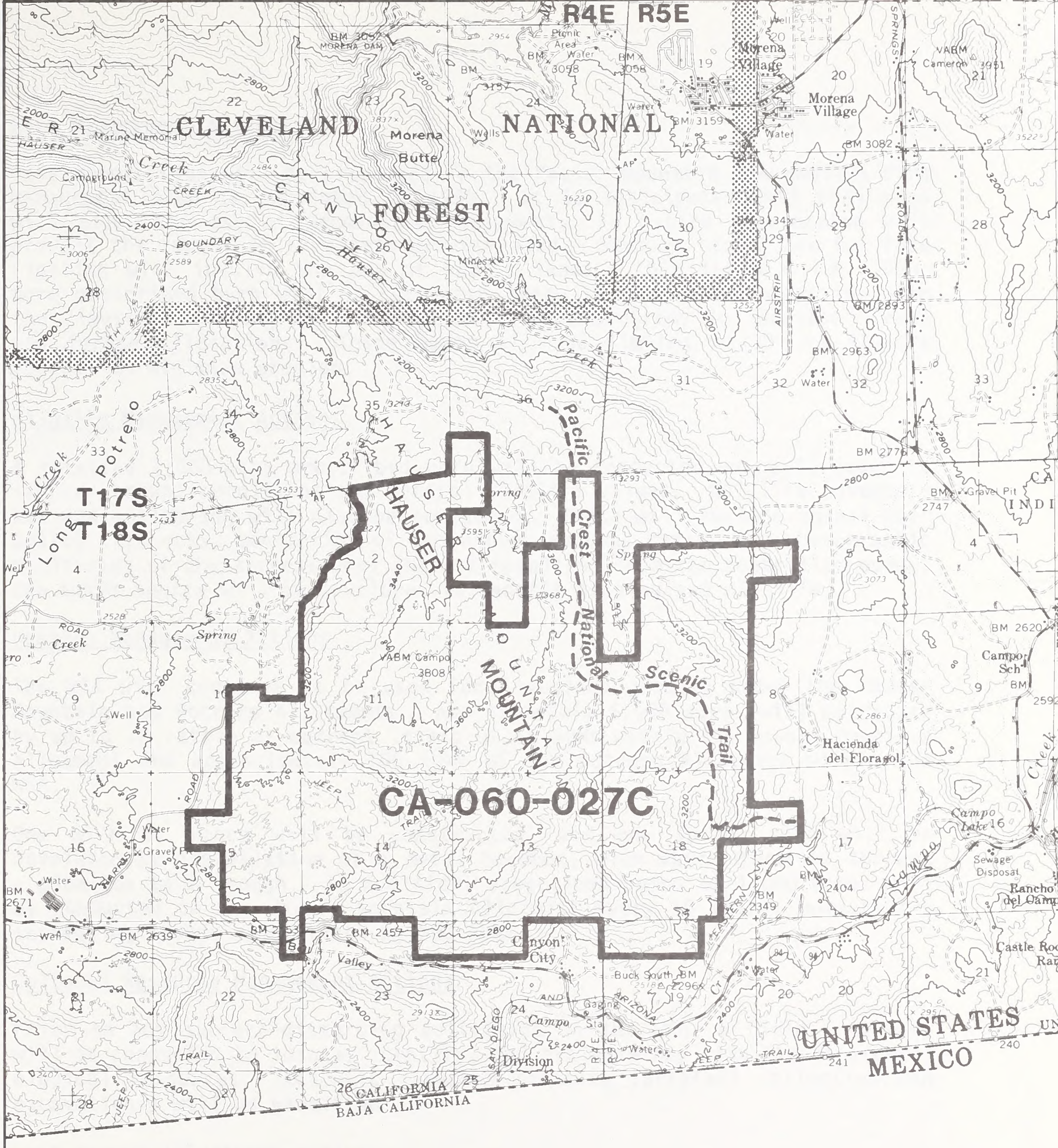
Recreational Use Management Actions

Recreational management actions will be directed toward enhancing nonmotorized recreation opportunities on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail which traverses the northwestern portion of the WSA. Use of this 4¼-mile segment is expected to climb from the current level of 200 visitor days per year to approximately 1,000 visitor days by 1987 when the trail is completed and the Hauser Mountain segment is connected to the remainder of the PCNST through trail construction outside the WSA. No trailhead or water development facilities exist, nor are any planned in the WSA. No trails other than the PCNST are planned to be built. However, the existing network of vehicle routes will be utilized by backpackers and equestrians.

Lands within the WSA will be designated "limited" for ORV use. Approximately 4 miles of vehicle trails in the western half of the WSA will be approved for vehicle use. Approximately 250 visitor days of motorized recreational use is estimated to occur along these trails. Over half of this use--150 visitor days annually--is hunting related. This use will remain constant over the foreseeable future because of the lack of legal motorized access.

Vegetation Management Actions

Under the Proposed Action, 1,000 acres will be burned on a rotational basis every 10 years under the livestock grazing and wildlife management programs. Areas designated for prescribed burns will be monitored prior to any burning to identify and locate any rare, threatened, or endangered plant species. These species will be monitored after the burn to determine the effect of fire on them. Monitoring on all vegetation will be performed after prescribed burns to determine the effects of fire on these vegetation communities.



MAP 5

HAUSER MOUNTAIN

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

PROPOSED ACTION

(NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION)

Fire Management Actions

Fire suppression will be practiced in the Hauser Mountain WSA until a fire management plan is completed in 1988. It is anticipated that this plan will allow the use of mechanized equipment. Full fire suppression will prevent the spread of fire onto private land. Support facilities for fire fighting will involve the use of public lands within the WSA. A 1,000-acre prescribed burn will be conducted every 10 years in conjunction with the livestock grazing and wildlife management programs to increase browse and forage allocations. These burns will be limited to 30- to 50-acre patches to minimize erosion.

Wildlife Management Actions

A rotating 1,000-acre prescribed burn will be conducted every 10 years to improve browse conditions and general wildlife values. Wildlife inventories and monitoring will also be conducted. These will include annual deer pellet transects, monitoring of the hunter success rates, and photographic monitoring of the successional changes resulting from the controlled burns. One water source will be developed to benefit grazing and wildlife.

Grazing Management Actions

The WSA will continue to be used for livestock grazing under the Hauser Mountain and Potrero Allotments. Approximately 5,000 acres will be grazed by up to 72 cattle at current levels of 66 AUMs within the Hauser Mountain Allotment and approximately 100 AUMs of the Potrero Allotment within the WSA.

One mile of fence will be constructed, and one spring site will be developed by installation of a metal headbox, with water diverted through a pipeline to a trough. In addition, prescribed burns of 1,000 acres will be conducted on the Hauser Mountain Allotment every 10 years, potentially increasing forage allocations by 500 AUMs.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

Prior to any surface-disturbing activities in the WSA, a field inventory will be conducted to locate, identify, and evaluate any significant archaeological resources. Academic research projects (artifact collection and excavations) will be permitted.

Land Tenure Adjustment Actions

Under the Proposed Action, no attempt will be made to acquire the private lands within the WSA.

Mineral Development Actions

Under the Proposed Action, lands within the WSA will remain open to mineral entry and location; however, no exploration or development is anticipated because of the low potential for mineral occurrence and the lack of any previous mining activity.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

All 5,489 acres of public land in the Hauser Mountain WSA would be recommended for wilderness designation. Under the All Wilderness Alternative the area would be closed to motorized vehicle use and would be managed to enhance nonmotorized recreational pursuits.

Recreational Use Management Actions

The Hauser Mountain WSA would be closed to recreational ORV use eliminating approximately 400 visitor days of ORV use that are estimated to occur in the area annually. Approximately 4 miles of roads would be closed to motorized recreational use and those no longer needed for grazing or wildlife management would be disc-plowed and reseeded to promote surface rehabilitation. Under this alternative, the WSA would be managed to provide a primitive setting, and to allow nonmotorized recreational pursuits such as hiking, backpacking, hunting, and equestrian use. Projections indicate that nonmotorized recreation use would increase, as in the Proposed Action, from 200 visitor days per year to 1,000 visitor days once the PCNST is constructed and the Hauser Mountain segment is connected to the remainder of the PCNST. Dispersed primitive camping and hiking would increase from 125 visitor days estimated to occur annually to nearly 300 visitor days.

Other than the construction of the 4.7-mile segment of the PCNST, no other recreational facilities are planned because of the low use the area is projected to receive.

Vegetation Management Actions

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, monitoring plots would be established after wildfires to measure the effects of fire on rare, threatened, or endangered plant species. Data would also be collected on the revegetation of fire climax plants following natural wildfires. No other vegetation management actions are planned.

Fire Management Actions

Under this proposal, a fire management plan would be written for the WSA. It would become an addendum to the Wilderness Management Plan which will be prepared by the USDA - Forest Service's Cleveland National Forest. Fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and ground crews would be used for fire control. Cross-country vehicle travel would be permitted, but only when the terrain and surface conditions would permit such travel without damage to vegetation cover and only with the approval of the (District Manager/ Forest Supervisor). Heavy equipment such as tracked vehicles and dozers would not be permitted except to prevent loss of human life or to protect private or high-value property.

Wildlife Management Actions

Wildlife inventories and monitoring would be conducted. These would emphasize deer management and would include annual pellet transects and the monitoring of hunter success rates.

Grazing Management Actions

Other than prohibiting prescribed burns, the grazing management actions under this alternative would be the same as those described for the Proposed Action on p. 35.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

Access would continue to be granted to qualified researchers for on-foot field surveys and resource documentation, but artifact collection or site excavations would be prohibited.

Land Tenure Adjustment Actions

Under this alternative every effort would be made to acquire private lands located within the Hauser Mountain WSA. Specifically, private lands deemed suitable for acquisition include: T. 18 S., R. 4 E., SBM; Section 1: W½NE¼, SW¼NE¼, N½SW¼; SE¼SW¼; amounting to 320 acres ±; and T. 17 W., R. 4 E., SBM; Section 35: NE¼SW¼; SE¼; and Section 36: N½SW¼, amounting to approximately 280 acres.

Acquisition of these lands would be through land exchanges and/or purchase.

Mineral Development Actions

Upon designation of the area as wilderness, all 5,489 acres would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. There are no valid existing rights; and the potential for mineral occurrence is low; no development is, therefore, projected.

WESTERN OTAY MOUNTAIN WSA
(CA-060-028)

PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL WILDERNESS)

Under this proposal 4,110 acres of public land in the Western Otay Mountain WSA are recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (see Map 6). One area in the extreme northern portion of the WSA totaling 840 acres, one area in the extreme western portion of the WSA totaling 760 acres, and one area in the east central portion of the WSA totaling 40 acres, are not recommended for wilderness designation, but will be managed in accordance with the existing Escondido-Border MFP, 1976.

Recreational Use Management Actions

Under the Proposed Action, the suitable portion of the WSA will be managed to provide a primitive setting to allow for nonmotorized recreational pursuits. Recreational activities including hiking and hunting which account for 100 visitor days per year, and nature photography and botanical studies which account for 500 visitor days, will be encouraged. These uses will increase slightly, but will remain at levels below 150 visitor days and 600 visitor days respectively. No recreational facilities or hiking trails exist in this portion of the WSA and none are planned.

The 1,640 acres of the WSA not recommended suitable will be designated as "limited" to ORV use and will be managed for a combination of motorized and nonmotorized recreational uses. Nonmotorized recreational uses such as hiking, hunting, nature photography, and botanical studies will account for 100 visitor days annually in this portion of the WSA. Motorized recreational use along the Little Cedar Truck Trail will remain constant at the current 25 visitor days annually. Development of any new vehicle routes for recreational purposes is not planned.

Vegetation Management Actions

Monitoring plots will be established after wildfire to measure the effects of fire on rare, threatened, or endangered plant species. Data will also be collected on the regeneration of fire climax plants following natural wildfires.

In those portions of the WSA not recommended suitable, vegetation inventories will be completed prior to any proposed surface-disturbing activities. Rare, threatened, or endangered plant species will be identified and located, and surface-disturbing activities will be precluded.

Fire Management Actions

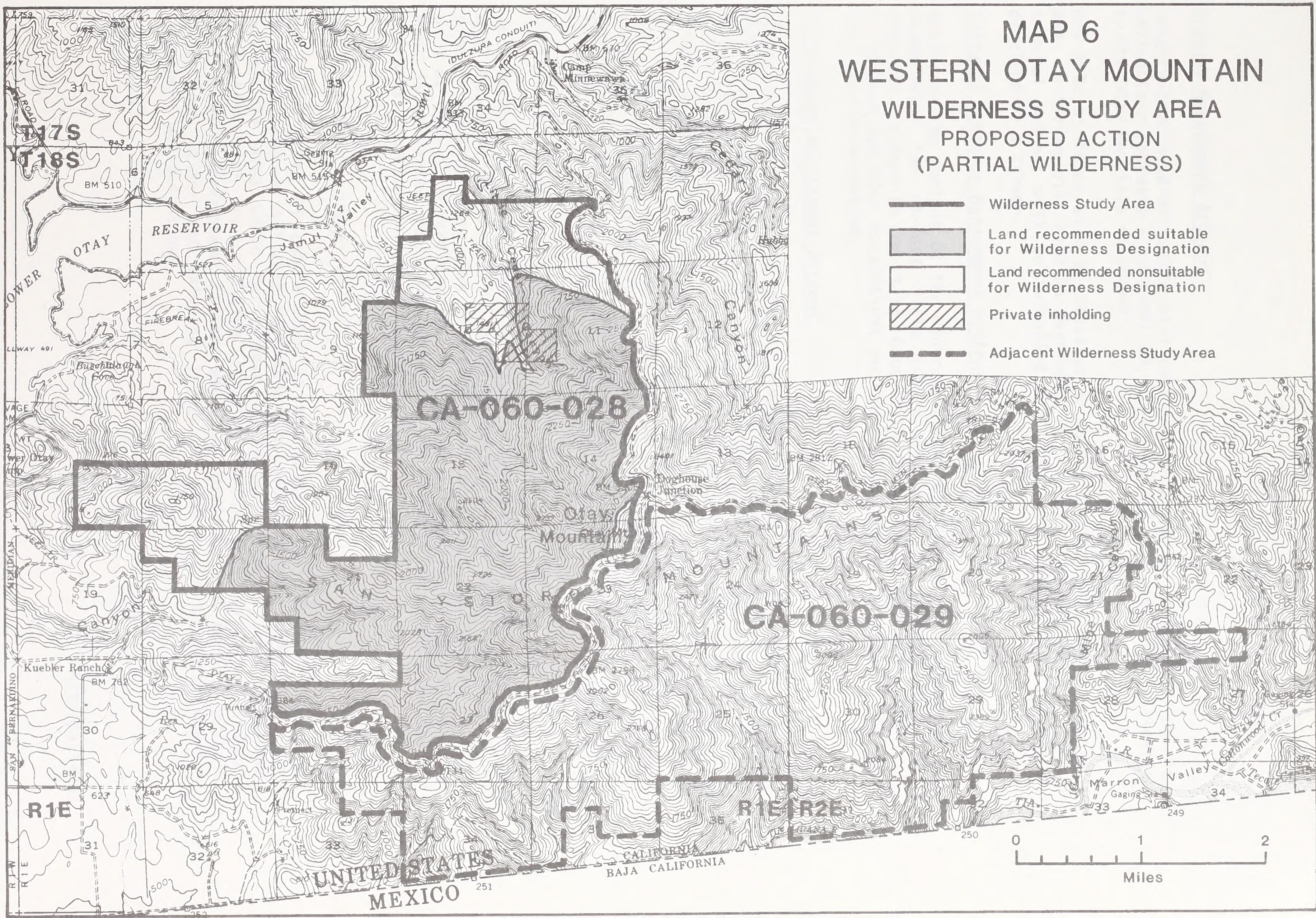
Under this proposal, a fire management plan will be written for the WSA. It will become an addendum to the Wilderness Management Plan which will be prepared by the USDA-Forest Service's Cleveland National Forest for that portion of the WSA recommended suitable. Fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter, and ground crews will be used for fire control in the recommended suitable portion of the WSA. Cross-country vehicle travel will be permitted, in this portion, but only when the terrain and surface conditions will permit such travel without damage to vegetation cover and only with the approval of the (District Manager/Forest Supervisor). Heavy equipment such as tracked vehicles and dozers will not be permitted except to prevent loss of human life or to protect private or high value property.

In the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, mechanized equipment will be utilized. Full fire suppression will prevent the spread of fire onto private land. Support facilities for fire fighting would involve the use of public lands within the WSA.

Wildlife Management Actions

One spring will be developed to benefit wildlife and grazing values. Inventories and monitoring will be conducted for deer, passerine birds and raptors. These will include annual deer pellet transects, spring bird censuses and the monitoring of raptor nesting sites.

MAP 6
WESTERN OTAY MOUNTAIN
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL WILDERNESS)



Grazing Management Actions

Seventy-four head of cattle will continue to graze in the area during the period from February 1 to April 30, utilizing 222 AUMs of forage allocated to the Otay Mountain Allotment.

One mile of fence will be constructed within the northern portion of the WSA. A spring will also be developed in the northern portion of the WSA. A metal headbox will be installed and water will be diverted through a pipeline to a trough.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

Access to the portion of the WSA recommended wilderness will be granted to researchers for on-foot field survey and resource documentation, but artifact collection or site excavation will be prohibited. Artifact collection and site excavations on the 1,640 acres not designated wilderness will be permitted.

Land Tenure Adjustment Actions

Under the Proposed Action private lands within the suitable portion of the WSA will be acquired through land exchange and/or purchase. An easement for an existing road/trail in Section 29 will also be secured through negotiations with private landowners to establish administrative/public access to the Western Otay Mountain WSA. Private lands deemed suitable for acquisition are located as follows: T. 18 S., R. 1 E., SBM, Section 28: N½N½, amounting to approximately 160 acres, and Section 21: SW¼SW¼, amounting to approximately 40 acres. Additional private lands will be acquired in Section 11: NW¼SW¼, amounting to approximately 40 acres; and Section 10: E½SE¼NE¼, E½NE¼SE¼, amounting to approximately 40 acres.

Mineral Development Actions

Upon designation of the 4,110 acres as wilderness, this portion of the WSA will be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. The remaining 1,640 acres not recommended suitable will be open to mineral entry and location. However, no mineral development is projected since the potential for mineral occurrence is low and there has been no historical mining activity.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

All 5,750 acres of public land in the Western Otay Mountain WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Under this alternative the area would be managed to enhance nonmotorized recreational activities such as primitive camping, hiking and botanical studies. Discretionary management actions would be permitted, but only to preserve wilderness values and existing levels of grazing in the Otay Mountain Allotment would continue.

Recreational Use Management Actions

Recreation management actions for the entire WSA would be the same as those described for the suitable portion of the WSA under the Proposed Action on p. 37. Nonmotorized recreational activities such as primitive camping and hiking and botanical studies would be encouraged and would increase from the 600 visitor days estimated to occur annually to 750 visitor days. In addition, the entire WSA would be closed to motorized vehicular use eliminating 25 visitor days annually.

No recreational facilities or hiking trails exist in the WSA (other than the Little Cedar Truck Trail) and none are planned.

Vegetation Management Actions

Monitoring plots would be established after wildfires to measure the effects on rare, threatened, or endangered plant species. Data would also be collected on the regeneration of fire climax plants following natural wildfires. Other than these actions, no other vegetation management actions are planned for the All Wilderness Alternative.

Fire Management Actions

The fire management actions for the All Wilderness Alternative would be the same as those described for the suitable portion of the WSA under the Proposed Action on p. 38.

Wildlife Management Actions

The wildlife management actions would be the same as in the Proposed Action on p. 38.

Grazing Management Actions

Grazing actions for this alternative would be the same as those described for the Proposed Action on p. 41.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

The cultural resource management actions for the All Wilderness Alternative would be the same as those described for the suitable portion of the WSA under the Proposed Action on p. 41.

Land Tenure Adjustment Actions

The land tenure adjustment for the All Wilderness Alternative would be the same as those described in the Proposed Action on p. 41.

Mineral Development Actions

Upon designation, the entire Western Otay Mountain WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. There has been no historical mining activity nor does the WSA contain any known economic mineral deposits. Therefore, no development is anticipated.

NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

All 5,750 acres of public land in the Western Otay Mountain WSA would not be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation but managed for multiple use in accordance with the Escondido-Border MFP, 1976. Under this alternative, the area would be managed to enhance nonmotorized recreational activities such as primitive camping, hiking, and botanical studies. Prescribed burns would be conducted on a rotational basis to improve livestock grazing and wildlife management.

Recreational Use Management Actions

The recreational use management actions for the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would be the same as those described under the Proposed Action on p. 37.

Vegetation Management Actions

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative, 1,000 acres would be burned on a rotational basis every 10 years to benefit livestock grazing and wildlife management. Areas designated for prescribed burns would be monitored prior to any burning to identify and locate any rare, threatened, or endangered plant species. These species would be protected from physical disturbance during the burn. Since these species are from fire-dependent ecosystems, the fire itself, even though different from wildfires, is not likely to hurt them. However, these species would be monitored after the burn to determine the effect of fire. Monitoring on all vegetation would be performed after prescribed burns to determine the effects of fire on these vegetation communities. Potential habitat for Least Bell's Vireo would not be burned.

Fire Management Actions

Fire suppression would be practiced in the Western Otay Mountain WSA until a fire management plan is completed. It is anticipated that this plan would allow the use of mechanized fire-fighting equipment. But only when the terrain and surface conditions would permit such travel without damage to vegetative cover and only with the approval of the (District Manager/ Forest Supervisor). Heavy equipment such as tracked vehicles and dozers would not be permitted except to prevent loss of human life or to protect private or high-value property.

A 1,000-acre prescribed burn would be conducted every 10 years in conjunction with the livestock grazing and wildlife management programs to increase browse and forage allocation. These burns would be limited to 30- to 40-acre patches to minimize erosion.

Wildlife Management Actions

A rotating 1,000-acre controlled burn would be conducted every 10 years to improve browse and general wildlife values. Inventories and monitoring would be conducted for deer, passerine birds and raptors. These would include annual deer pellet transects, spring bird censuses and the monitoring of raptor nesting sites. Photographic monitoring plots would be established to monitor the successional changes resulting from the controlled burns. One spring would be developed to benefit wildlife and grazing values.

Grazing Management Actions

In addition to the grazing management actions described under the Proposed Action on p. 41, a prescribed burn of 1,000 acres would be conducted in the northern portion of the WSA, potentially increasing forage allocations by 200 AUMs.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative, field inventories would be conducted prior to any surface-disturbing activities to locate, identify and evaluate any significant archaeological resources. Academic research projects (artifact collection and excavation) would be permitted.

Land Tenure Adjustment Actions

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative, no attempt would be made to acquire any of the private lands within the Western Otay WSA.

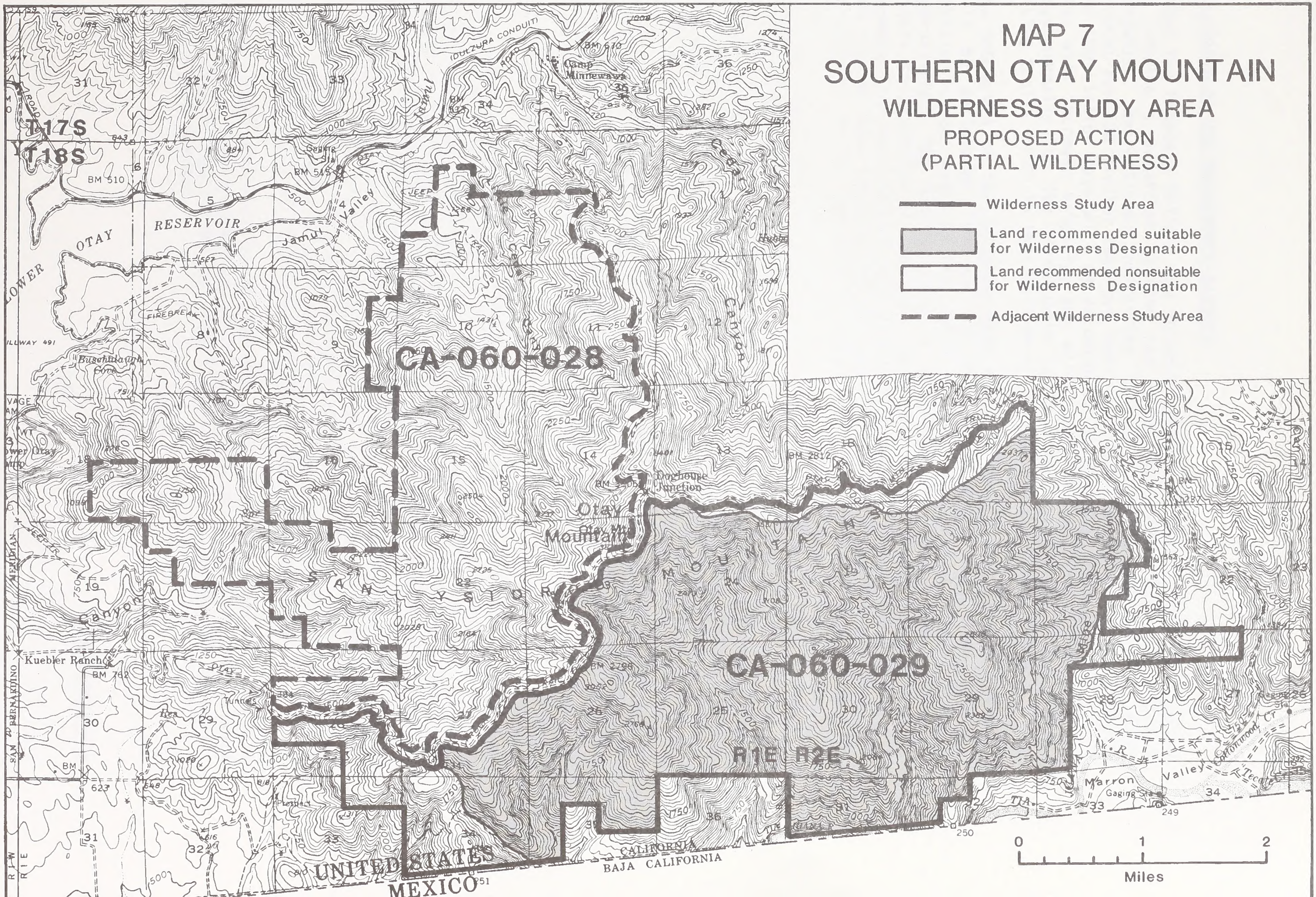
Mineral Development Actions

The entire WSA would be open to mineral entry and location. However, no mineral development is projected since the WSA does not contain any known economic mineral deposits and there has been no history of mining activity.

SOUTHERN OTAY MOUNTAIN WSA
(CA-060-029)

PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL WILDERNESS)

Under this proposal, 6,980 acres of public land in the Southern Otay Mountain WSA are recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (see Map 7). One area in the extreme southwestern portion of the WSA totaling 520 acres, one area along the northern boundary of the WSA totaling 210 acres, and two area's in the extreme eastern portion of the WSA totaling 230 acres, are not recommended for wilderness designation, but will be managed in accordance with the existing Escondido-Border MFP, 1976.



MAP 7
SOUTHERN OTAY MOUNTAIN
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
PROPOSED ACTION
(PARTIAL WILDERNESS)

Recreational Use Management Actions

Under the Proposed Action, the suitable portion of the WSA will be managed to provide a primitive setting and allow for nonmotorized recreational pursuits. Recreational activities including hiking and hunting which account for 100 visitor days per year, and botanical studies which account for 500 visitor days will be encouraged. Projections indicate that these uses will increase slightly, but will remain at levels below 750 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreational facilities or hiking trails exist in this portion of the WSA and none are planned.

The 960 acres of the Southern Otay Mountain WSA not recommended suitable will be designated "limited" to motorized vehicle use. Two separate vehicle routes totaling one mile will be approved for vehicle use. Approximately 100 visitor days of motorized use is estimated to occur within this portion of the WSA. No change in use levels is anticipated. Nonmotorized recreational uses within this portion of the WSA account for 100 visitor days annually and are also anticipated to remain constant. No development of any new vehicle routes or hiking trails is planned in this area.

Vegetation Management Actions

Monitoring plots will be established after wildfires to measure the effects of fire on rare, threatened, or endangered plant species. Data will also be collected on the revegetation of fire climax plants following natural wildfires.

In those portions of the WSA not recommended suitable, vegetation inventories will be completed prior to any surface-disturbing activities. Rare, threatened, or endangered species will be identified and located, and surface-disturbing activities will be precluded.

Fire Management Actions

Under this proposal, a fire management plan will be written for the WSA. It will become an addendum to the Wilderness Management Plan which will be prepared by the USDA-Forest Service's Cleveland National Forest for that portion of the WSA recommended suitable. Fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter, and ground crews will be used for fire control in the recommended suitable portion of the WSA. Cross-country vehicle travel will be permitted, in this portion of the WSA but only when the terrain and surface conditions will permit such travel without damage to vegetation cover and only with the approval of the (District Manager/Forest Supervisor). Heavy equipment such as tracked vehicles and dozers will not be permitted except to prevent loss of human life or to protect private or high-value property.

In the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, mechanized equipment will be utilized. Full fire suppression will prevent the spread of fire onto private land. Support facilities for fire fighting will involve the use of public lands within the WSA.

Wildlife Management Actions

Wildlife inventories and monitoring will be conducted. These will emphasize deer management. These will include annual pellet transects and monitoring of hunter success rates. Raptor nesting locations will also be inventoried and monitored. One spring will be developed to benefit wildlife such as deer and upland game.

Grazing Management Actions

About 100 acres (2 percent) of the Otay Mountain Allotment is within the WSA. Seventy-four head of cattle could conceivably make use of this area from February 1 to April 30. From a practical standpoint, however, the 100 acres within the WSA will receive little if any grazing use. None of the range improvement planned for the Otay Mountain Allotment will be located within this WSA.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

Access to the portion recommended wilderness will be granted to researchers for on-foot field survey and resource documentation, but artifact collection or site excavation will be prohibited. Field inventory and resource evaluation on the 960 acres not designated wilderness will be carried out on a case-by-case basis.

Land Tenure Adjustment Actions

Under the Proposed Action, private lands will be acquired through land exchanges and/or purchase to eliminate private inholdings and consolidate public land ownership. Private lands deemed suitable for acquisition are located in T. 18 S., R. 1 E., SBM; Section 35: Lots 2-4, SW¼NW¼; and Section 36: Lots 1-4, N½. The aforementioned lands amount to approximately 480 acres.

Mineral Development Actions

Upon designation of the 6,980 acres as wilderness, this portion of the WSA will be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. The remaining 960 acres not recommended suitable will be open to mineral entry and location. However, no mineral development is projected since the potential for mineral occurrence is low and there has been no historical mining activity.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

All 7,940 acres of public land in the Southern Otay Mountain WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Under this alternative, the area would be managed to enhance nonmotorized activities such as primitive camping, hiking, and botanical studies. Discretionary management actions would be permitted, but only to preserve wilderness values. Existing levels of grazing in the Otay Mountain Allotment would continue.

Recreational Use Management Actions

Recreation management actions for the entire WSA would be the same as those described for the suitable portion of the WSA under the Proposed Action on p. 47. Nonmotorized recreational activities such as primitive camping and hiking and botanical studies would be encouraged and would increase from the 600 visitor days estimated to occur annually to 750 visitor days. In addition, the entire WSA would be closed to motorized vehicle use eliminating 100 visitor days annually.

No recreational facilities or hiking trails exist in the WSA and none are planned.

Vegetation Management Actions

Monitoring plots would be established after wildfires to measure the effects on rare, threatened, or endangered plant species. Data would also be collected on the revegetation of fire climax plants following natural wildfires.

In those portions of the WSA not recommended suitable, vegetation inventories would be completed prior to any surface-disturbing activities. Rare, threatened, or endangered species would be identified and located, and surface-disturbing activities would be precluded.

Fire Management Actions

Under this alternative, a fire management plan would be written for the WSA. It would become an addendum to the Wilderness Management Plan which would be prepared by the USDA - Forest Service's Cleveland National Forest. Fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and ground crews would be used for fire control. Cross-country vehicle travel would be permitted, but only when the terrain and surface conditions would permit such travel without damage to vegetation cover and only with the approval of the (District Manager/ Forest Supervisor). Heavy equipment such as tracked vehicles and dozers would not be permitted except to prevent loss of human life or to protect private or high-value property.

Wildlife Management Actions

The wildlife management actions for the All Wilderness Alternative would be the same as those described under the Proposed Action on p. 48.

Grazing Management Actions

The grazing management actions for the All Wilderness Alternative would be the same as those described under the Proposed Action on p. 48.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

The cultural resource management actions for the All Wilderness Alternative would be the same as those described for the suitable portion under the Proposed Action on p. 48.

Land Tenure Adjustment Actions

Under this alternative, private lands within the Southern Otay Mountain WSA would be acquired as described under the Proposed Action on p. 48.

Mineral Development Actions

Upon designation, the entire Southern Otay Mountain WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. There has been no historical mining activity nor does the WSA contain any known economic mineral deposits. Therefore, no development is anticipated.

NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

All 7,940 acres of public land in the Southern Otay Mountain WSA would not be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation but managed for multiple use in accordance with the Escondido-Border MFP (1976). Under this alternative, the area would be managed to enhance nonmotorized recreational activities such as primitive camping, hiking, and botanical studies. Livestock use would be maintained at existing levels.

Recreational Use Management Actions

The recreation use management actions for the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would be the same as those described under the Proposed Action on p. 47.

Monitoring plots would be established after wildlife to measure the effects on rare, threatened, or endangered plant species. Data would also be collected on the revegetation of fire climax plants following natural wildfires.

Vegetation Management Actions

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative, 1,000 acres would be burned on a rotational basis every 10 years to benefit livestock grazing and wildlife management. Areas designated for prescribed burns would be monitored prior to any burning to identify and locate any rare, threatened, or endangered plant species. These species would be protected from physical disturbance during the burn. Since these species are from fire-dependent ecosystems, the fire itself, even though different from wildfires, is not likely to hurt them. However, these species would be monitored after the burn to determine the effect of fire. Monitoring on all vegetation would be performed after prescribed burns to determine the effects of fire on these vegetation communities. Potential habitat for Least Bell's Vireo would not be burned.

Fire Management Actions

Fire suppression would be practiced in the Southern Otay Mountain WSA until a fire management plan is completed. It is anticipated that this plan would allow the use of mechanized fire-fighting equipment, but only when the terrain and surface conditions would permit such travel without damage to vegetation cover and only with the approval of the (District Manager/Forest Supervisor). Heavy equipment such as tracked vehicles and dozers would not be permitted except to prevent loss of human life or to protect private or high-value property.

Wildlife Management Actions

A rotating 1,000-acre controlled burn would be conducted every 10 years to improve browse conditions and general wildlife habitat. Inventories and monitoring would emphasize deer management and raptor nesting activity. Actions would include annual deer pellet transects, monitoring hunter success rates and inventorying raptor nesting sites and monitoring these sites regularly. Photographic monitoring plots would be established to monitor the successional changes resulting from controlled burns.

Grazing Management Actions

Grazing management actions for this alternative would be the same as those described for the Proposed Action on p. 48.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

The cultural resource management actions for the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would be the same as those described for the suitable portion of the WSA under the Proposed Action on p. 48.

Land Tenure Adjustment Actions

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative, no attempt would be made to acquire any of the private lands within the Southern Otay Mountain WSA.

Mineral Development Actions

The entire WSA would be open to mineral entry and location. However, no mineral development is projected since the WSA does not contain any known economic mineral deposits and there has been no history of mining activity.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Tables 1 through 5 provide a comparative summary of the major impacts of the Proposed Actions and alternatives.

TABLE 1
COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE FOR THE AGUA TIBIA WSA

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (ALL WILDERNESS)	NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE
Impact on Wilderness Values	The net effect of the management actions would be the retention and long-term protection of the area's wilderness values resulting primarily from the continued closure of the area to ORV use. In addition, long-term security from unanticipated adverse future actions would be provided. Naturalness and solitude would be reduced by trail maintenance and increased visitor use on less than one percent of the WSA. The special features (scenic views and two native California plant communities) and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation would not be impacted more than negligibly.	Impacts under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would be essentially the same as those under the Proposed Action, except that there would not be long-term security from unanticipated future actions and there would be temporary (2 to 4 years) negative impacts to naturalness and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation from the proposed prescribed burning on 100 acres every 10 years. The prescribed burning would also have temporary minor benefits to scenic views and moderate benefit to the coastal scrub and chaparral communities, which are fire dependent.

TABLE 2
COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND
ALTERNATIVES FOR THE BEAUTY MOUNTAIN WSA

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION)	ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
Impact on Wilderness Values	The management actions under the No Wilderness/No Action proposal would have a moderate negative impact on wilderness values in the WSA. Some of the impacts on naturalness--those from motorized and non-motorized recreationists, range improvements, and fire suppression activities--would affect less than 5 percent of the WSA. However, impacts from increased levels of livestock use would affect major portions of the WSA and be evident to many visitors to the area. Prescribed burning would severely impact up to 1,000 acres (depending on how much was burned in a given year) for about a year, but the area would then recover and perceived naturalness would benefit from increases in vegetation vigor and wildlife. Mining development would have long-term negative impacts on naturalness on up to 500 acres of the WSA. Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would mirror the impacts on naturalness because the opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area. Special features are the scenic views of the WSA. Prescribed burns would open up some vistas and mar some, the impacts being temporary (2 to 4 years). The mineral development anticipated on 210 acres would have a long-term (up to 50 years) impact on less than 5 percent of the vistas from the WSA.	Wilderness values would be retained on more than 95 percent of the WSA. While the elimination of ORV use would improve naturalness on about 700 acres, mining development would have long-term negative impacts on naturalness on up to 500 acres. Impacts on naturalness from range improvements and fire suppression activities would be minor. Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would be similar to the impacts on naturalness because those opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area. The special features of the WSA are its outstanding vistas. They would be unaffected under this alternative except for the long-term (up to 50 years) impairment of less than 5 percent of them by the anticipated mineral development.	Impacts on wilderness values would be retained on more than 95 percent of the WSA and would be the same as under the All Wilderness Alternative except that only about 75 percent of the ORV use would be eliminated.

TABLE 2 (CONTINUED)
COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND
ALTERNATIVES FOR THE BEAUTY MOUNTAIN WSA

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION)	ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
Impact on Upland Game Species Habitat	Overall, benefits to deer and quail would be minor. Benefits from prescribed burning and water development would be mostly counterbalanced by habitat disturbance from mining.	There would be a minor reduction in deer and quail populations. Benefits from water developments and the elimination of ORVs would be more than counterbalanced by habitat disturbance from mining.	The impacts would be essentially the same as under the All Wilderness Alternative.
Impact on Livestock Grazing Operations	Forage allocations to livestock would increase by 50 AUMs (30 percent) within 10 years. The forage utilization efficiencies of the operations would increase.	Forage allocations to livestock would remain at 150 AUMs.	Impacts would be the same as under the All Wilderness Alternative.
Impact on Motorized Recreation Use Levels	Motorized recreational use would drop about 12 percent to approximately 185 visitor days per year.	There would be no motorized recreational use within the WSA.	Motorized recreational use would drop about 75 percent to slightly more than 50 visitor days per year.

TABLE 3
COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE FOR THE HAUSER MOUNTAIN WSA

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION)	ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
Impact on Wilderness Values	The management actions under the No Wilderness/No Action proposal would have a moderate negative impact on wilderness values in the WSA. Some of the impacts on naturalness--those from motorized and nonmotorized recreationists, range improvements, and fire suppression activities--would affect less than 5 percent of the WSA. However, impacts from greatly increased levels of livestock use would affect major portions of the WSA and be evident to many visitors to the area. Prescribed burning would severely impact up to 1,000 acres (depending on how much was burned in a given year) for about a year, but the area would then recover and perceived naturalness would benefit from increases in vegetation vigor and wildlife. Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would mirror the impacts on naturalness because the opportunities depend on the naturalness of a given area. Special features are the scenic views and the sensitive plant, Hemizonia floribunda. Prescribed burns would open up some vistas and mar some, the impacts being temporary (2 to 4 years). Hemizonia floribunda would receive adverse impacts from livestock grazing and recreationists; these impacts would be counterbalanced by the beneficial effect of prescribed burning.	Wilderness values would be retained under this alternative. Naturalness would receive minor adverse impacts on about 110 acres from visitor use along the Pacific Crest Trail and from range improvements and fire suppression activities. Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would receive negligible adverse impacts from the same sources. There would be no net impact on the special features of the WSA (scenic vistas and the sensitive plant, Hemizonia floribunda) under this alternative.

TABLE 3 (CONTINUED)
COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE FOR THE HAUSER MOUNTAIN WSA

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION)	ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
Impact on Sensitive Plant Species	_Hemizonia_ _floribunda_ would receive minor adverse impacts from livestock grazing and recreational use; these impacts would be counterbalanced by the beneficial effect of prescribed burning.	Impacts on _Hemizonia_ _floribunda_ (both positive and negative) would be much less than under the Proposed Action, the net result being the same: no overall impact.
Impact on Livestock Grazing Operations	Forage allocations to livestock would increase by 500 AUMs (300 percent) within 15 years. The forage utilization efficiencies of the operators would increase.	The forage utilization efficiencies of the operators would increase, but forage allocations to livestock would remain at about 166 AUMs within the WSA.

TABLE 4
COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES FOR THE WESTERN OTAY MOUNTAIN WSA

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL WILDERNESS)	ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE
Impact on Wilderness Values	The management actions under the Partial Wilderness Proposal would have a minor negative impact on wilderness values in the WSA. Naturalness would be temporarily disrupted by ORV use on less than 5 percent of the WSA and be more permanently impacted on less than 1 percent of the WSA by range improvements and fire suppression activities. Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would be similar to the impacts on naturalness because those opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area. The special feature of this WSA are its sensitive plant species which would be impacted negligibly. Minor negative impacts from fire suppression activities and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use would be counterbalanced by minor benefits from the acquisition of 280 acres.	Under the All Wilderness Alternative, impacts to wilderness values would be negligible. They would be similar to those described for the Partial Wilderness Proposal, but they would be less because there would be no ORV use and the potential disturbance from fire suppression activities would be less. Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would be similar to the impacts on naturalness because those opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area. The special feature of this WSA are its sensitive plant species which would be impacted negligibly. Minor negative impacts for fire suppression activities and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use would be counterbalanced by minor benefits from the acquisition of 280 acres.	Impacts to wilderness values under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would be similar to those for the Partial Wilderness Proposal, except that they would be somewhat greater (although still minor) because of the temporary visual impacts on naturalness from prescribed burning of 1,000 acres on a 10-year cycle (including the impact of the resultant increase in livestock use of the WSA) and the increased potential for the use of heavy equipment for fire suppression activities. Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would be similar to the impacts on naturalness because those opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area. The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species which would receive minor impacts from prescribed burning, increased livestock use, and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use.
Impact on Rare and Sensitive Plant Species	Impacts on sensitive plant species would be negligible. Minor negative impacts from fire suppression activities and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use would be counterbalanced by minor benefits from the acquisition of 280 acres.	Negative impacts would be slightly less than under the Proposed Action because of the elimination of 25 visitor days per year of motorized recreational use.	Impacts on sensitive plant species would be minor, but greater than under the other two alternatives because of potential impacts from prescribed burning, increased livestock use, and the fact that there would be no land acquisition.

TABLE 4 (CONTINUED)
COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES FOR THE WESTERN OTAY MOUNTAIN WSA

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL WILDERNESS)	ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE
Impact on Least Bell's Vireo Habitat	Impacts on Least Bell's Vireo habitat would be negligible to light; required mitigations would prevent surface-disturbing activities.	Impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Action.	Impact on Least Bell's Vireo habitat would be minor, but greater than under the other two alternatives because of potential impact from increased livestock grazing.
Impact on Livestock Grazing Operations	Forage allocations to livestock would remain at 222 AUMs.	The impacts would be the same as under the Proposed Action.	Forage allocations to livestock would increase by 200 AUMs (90 percent) to about 420 AUMs within 10 years.

TABLE 5
COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES FOR THE SOUTHERN OTAY MOUNTAIN WSA

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL WILDERNESS)	ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE
Impact on Wilderness Values	The management actions under the Partial Wilderness Proposal would have a minor negative impact on wilderness values in the WSA. Naturalness would be temporarily disrupted by ORV use on less than 5 percent of the WSA and be more permanently impacted on less than 1 percent of the WSA by range improvements and fire suppression activities. Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would be similar to the impacts on naturalness because those opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area. The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species which would be impacted negligibly. Minor negative impacts from fire suppression activities and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use would be counterbalanced by minor benefits from the acquisition of 480 acres.	Under the All Wilderness Alternative, impacts to wilderness values would be negligible. They would be similar to those described for the Partial Wilderness Proposal, but they would be less because there would be no ORV use and the potential disturbance from fire suppression activities would be less. Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would be similar to the impacts on naturalness because those opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area. The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species which would be impacted negligibly. Minor negative impacts for fire suppression activities and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use would be counterbalanced by minor benefits from the acquisition of 480 acres.	Impacts to wilderness values under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would be similar to those for the Partial Wilderness Proposal, except that they would be somewhat greater (although still minor) because of the temporary visual impacts on naturalness from prescribed burning of 1,000 acres on a 10-year cycle (including the impact of the resultant increase in livestock use of the WSA) and the increased potential for the use of heavy equipment for fire suppression activities. Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would be similar to the impacts on naturalness because those opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area. The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species which would receive minor impacts from prescribed burning, increased livestock use, and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use.
Impact on Rare and Sensitive Plant Species	Impacts on sensitive plant species would be negligible. Minor negative impacts from fire suppression activities and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use would be counterbalanced by minor benefits from the acquisition of 480 acres.	Negative impacts would be slightly less than under the Proposed Action because of the elimination of 100 visitor days per year of motorized recreational use.	Impacts on sensitive plant species would be minor, but greater than under the other two alternatives because of potential impacts from prescribed burning, increased livestock use, and the fact that there would be no land acquisition.

Chapter 3

Affected Environment

CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This chapter briefly describes each WSA and the resources that could be affected by the Proposed Action and alternatives.

More detailed descriptions of the resources in the study area and the regional socioeconomic conditions may be found in the planning documents for the area. Copies of these documents may be reviewed in the California Desert District and the Indio Resource Area Office.

AGUA TIBIA WSA

(CA-060-002)

The Agua Tibia WSA is located in Riverside County and includes 360 acres of public land at the northern extreme of Agua Tibia Mountain. The boundaries of the WSA are defined by section lines, one of which (the southernmost) forms a common boundary, approximately 1 mile long, with the Agua Tibia Wilderness Area. This Wilderness Area is located within the Cleveland National Forest and is managed by the U.S.D.A. and Forest Service.

The WSA consists of an east-west trending ridge just north of the steep Agua Tibia Wilderness. As a small part of the Agua Tibia Mountain portion of the Peninsular Range geomorphic province, elevations in this area range from 1,700 feet above mean sea level in the northwest to a maximum altitude of 2,581 feet. Dominant features include Pechanga Creek which traverses through the southwest corner of this WSA, and a steep break along the northern boundary overlooking the Pauba Valley. Much of Pauba Valley is presently being converted from grazing lands to a suburban landscape. The Pechanga Indian Reservation is visible, about one-half mile to the west.

WILDERNESS VALUES

Naturalness

Limited access and extreme ruggedness have combined to ensure the maintenance of a pristine condition, and the imprint of man's presence is negligible. The area has outstanding natural values, and does not contain roads, ways, trails, prospects, or other evidence of man. The natural character of the unit is emphasized when compared to nonwilderness study area lands to the north. From the crest and high elevations, outstanding views are available of all major mountain ranges and peaks in southern California. Exceptional views of the San Bernardino, San Jacinto, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana Mountains are all available to recreationists. This study area joins and compliments the existing 15,934-acre Agua Tibia Wilderness Area to the south and offers a higher elevation extension of undisturbed natural values, and presents a striking, undisturbed conifer-dotted view to visitors of the unit. Other than a short foot-trail segment, the land and the vegetation are completely undisturbed. Although outstanding views of the surrounding area are available from the higher elevations, topography and tall, dense vegetation at the lower levels screen nearby building and development from view.

Solitude

Opportunities for solitude within the area are excellent. Dense vegetation on the steep slopes and in the canyons combined with topographic relief and relatively low use levels ensure a sense of solitude throughout. This feeling is enhanced toward the south as one approaches the existing Agua Tibia Wilderness. Opportunities for solitude are less near the northern border of the WSA which is located near a cluster of homes.

Primitive or Unconfined Types of Recreation

Although the site itself is small, when combined with the adjacent wilderness, the total area offers outstanding opportunities for unconfined types of recreation. The steep topography and untrammeled nature provide challenging hiking and backpacking experiences. Photography, painting, nature study and day use picnicking all occur on the site. Game trails within the study area suggest that hunting opportunities exist.

Special Features

The area provides excellent representations of two native California plant communities. The coastal sage scrub and chaparral communities present both contain great numbers of individuals as well as diversity of species. Excellent scenic views of the surrounding valleys and mountain ranges are available from the crest of the unit.

LAND OWNERSHIP

The Agua Tibia WSA contains 360 acres of public lands. It is bounded on the north, west, and east by private property and on the south by the Forest Service's Agua Tibia Wilderness in the Cleveland National Forest. Access to the area is by State Highway 79 which is separated from the area by approximately one-half mile of private land.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Formal archaeological surveys have not been conducted in the WSA and no cultural resource sites are recorded within its boundaries. The records of the California Archaeological Inventory housed at the University of California, Riverside (Information Center for Riverside County) indicate that, except for a site at Dripping Springs 3 miles to the east, no sites are recorded within 5 miles of the WSA's boundaries.

RECREATION

Recreational use in the Agua Tibia WSA is disbursed and consists primarily of nonmotorized, unconfined types of recreational activities. Hiking, primitive camping, picnicking, and nature study opportunities are the dominant recreational activities occurring within the WSA.

Nearly all of this use originates from two different sources. The majority of use, which accounts for approximately 750 visitor use days annually, originates from the adjacent Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Dorland Preserve properties located on the northern boundary of the WSA. Day hiking, picnicking and various nature study pursuits occur within the northwest tip of the WSA that is located between TNC and Dorland Preserve properties. The most convenient recreational access to the WSA is provided by an existing foot trail that was built and is maintained by The Nature Conservancy. An approximate one-quarter-mile segment of this 2-mile trail crosses the northwest tip of the Agua Tibia WSA.

Some hiking and backpacking activities, which are the result of the extended use of the contiguous Forest Service Agua Tibia Wilderness Area, have been reported along the extreme southern border of the WSA. However, lack of trail access and a seasonal fire closure on the Forest Service Wilderness Area have kept use which originated from the Forest Service Wilderness at levels below 150 visitor use days annually.

Restricted access, steep slopes, and a lack of existing roads preclude recreational vehicle use of the WSA.

Deer and small game hunting is also limited due to access problems, steep topography, and dense low lying vegetation. It is estimated that hunting accounts for less than 100 visitor use days per year.

VISUAL RESOURCES

The Agua Tibia WSA is located within the Southwest Mountain and Valley landscape province. This small site (360 acres) lies along a single ridge overlooking the Pauba Valley. The ridge rises steeply, with the elevation jumping from 1,800 feet to 2,500 feet at various peaks along its back. Dense stands of chaparral blanket these slopes providing nearly total vegetation coverage. The chaparral provides a mottled texture where old fire scars abruptly change the vegetation species mix as well as the overall color from muted yellow-green to grayish green. Dark green ribbons of oaks along the drainages provide some contrast. Otherwise, the area is visually homogeneous with no strong characteristic features.

Human modifications to the area consist of rough trails. They are virtually unnoticeable in the dense brush and have no effect on the overall scenic quality.

From the WSA, exceptional views to the north and west of the rural Pauba Valley are offered. Palomar and Agua Tibia Mountains are prominent background features to the south and east. Pristine Pechanga and Kolb Creek Valleys dominate the middleground perspectives to these directions.

As a WSA, the site is managed under Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class 2 guidelines, affording the area a suitable level of protection during interim management. The scenic quality of the area has been given an "A" (excellent) rating based on the evaluation of seven criteria: landform, color, water features, vegetation, uniqueness, human modifications, and adjacent scenery. The visual sensitivity of the site is high, mainly due to the traffic using Highway 79 which passes close-by.

VEGETATION

The Agua Tibia WSA is typical of undisturbed dense chaparral vegetation. The only intrusion into the vegetation community is through trails and old firebreaks. The ridgetops support components of the coastal sage scrub vegetation. These vegetation types are characterized by the dense, thick nature of growth which inhibits most access by humans and wildlife. Dominant chaparral species include *Ceanothus crassifolius* (hoary-leaf ceanothus), *Adenostoma fasciculatum* (chamise), and *Adenostoma sparsifolium* (red shank). Other important shrubs include *Rhus ovata* (sugarbush), *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (Christmas berry), *Cercocarpus betuloides* (mountain mahogany), and *Keckiella antirrhinoides* (snapdragon penstemon). Common representatives of coastal sage scrub which occur on or near ridges are *Eriogonum fasciculatum* (California buckwheat), *Salvia mellifera* (black sage), *Artemisia californica* (coastal sagebrush), and *Encelia farinosa* (brittlebush).

No rare plants listed on the California Native Plant Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants were observed during the survey of the WSA.

WILDLIFE

The steep slopes of the Agua Tibia Wilderness Study Area are covered predominately with coastal sage scrub with scattered coast live oaks in the major drainages. Some chamise chaparral is also present. The wildlife species found in the WSA are typical of these habitats throughout southern California. The broad expanse of adjacent Forest Service wilderness permits the Agua Tibia WSA to support a few larger species which require large areas of undisturbed habitat including an occasional mountain lion (*Felis concolor*) and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*). A varied list of predators recorded from the area suggests a broad prey base and attests to the undisturbed nature of the area. These include bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), coyote (*Canus latrans*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) and several raptors, including Red-shouldered Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and White-tailed Kite. Other common species include California Quail, Mountain Quail, Bushtit, Rufous-sided Towhee, brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*) and dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes*).

Species of Special Concern

Although not recorded on site, the two species of concern most likely to occur in the Agua Tibia WSA are the San Diego horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei*) and the orange-throated whiptail (*Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingi*). Both of these lizards prefer a mosaic pattern of chaparral although they have been recorded in a variety of habitats. They are generally found in flatter areas where the soil contains a significant amount of sand. Conditions on the steep slopes of Agua Tibia WSA are not ideal. Both of these species are Category 2 candidates for Federal listing.

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

Excerpt from U.S. Bureau of Mines Open File Report (11-85):

Geology

> The WSA is in the Peninsular Range province, a region characterized by northwest-trending fault zones that typically bound mountain ranges. One of these ranges, the Agua Tibia Mountains, is underlain primarily by cretaceous plutonic rocks and some metamorphic rocks. The WSA, in the northern part of the range, is underlain mainly by a block of weakly foliated gabbro that is partially bounded by faults (Irwin and others, 1970). A narrow band of limonite-stained conglomeratic sedimentary rocks lies along the southern boundary of the WSA; a sample contained no anomalous metal values.

Appraisal of Mineral Deposits

> The literature search and field examination revealed no evidence of mining activity in the study area. The Pala district, 6 miles south of the WSA, is famous for gem and lithium-bearing pegmatites in gabbro similar to that underlying most of the WSA. However, few resources have been discovered in gabbro outside the district, and pegmatites in the WSA are not known to contain gemstones or lepidolite, a lithium mineral found in the Pala district.
>
> Gabbro has been quarried at several localities in the region. The closest is the Magee Quarry, 7 miles south of the WSA. Production from the quarry has probably not exceeded a few tens of thousands of tons (Irwin and others, 1970), and has been used for facing and dimension stone. Similar gabbro may exist in the study area, but the other nearby quarries are already developed and more accessible.
>
> No sand and gravel or energy (oil, gas, coal, or geothermal) resources were identified in the study area.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

There are no existing grazing allotments within this WSA. Slopes are extremely steep and the area is very rugged throughout, making utilization by livestock relatively difficult.

SOILS AND WATERSHED RESOURCES

The soils are predominantly of the Cajalco-Temescal-Las Posas association, well drained on undulating to steep slopes. They are moderately deep to shallow soils with a surface layer of fine sandy loam and loam on gabbro and latite porphyry. The soils are susceptible to erosion if disturbed, and are valuable in the support of vegetation for watershed protection and wildlife habitat.

AQUIFER USE

The area overlies consolidated rock which is a poor aquifer. Drainage from the area provides recharge to the Temecula Valley where groundwater is used for irrigation, municipal, industrial, and domestic purposes. Several springs occur at lower elevations just to the north and are supplied by drainage from the area.

Photo 1. Oak woodland-lined canyon on eastern side of Agua Tibia WSA

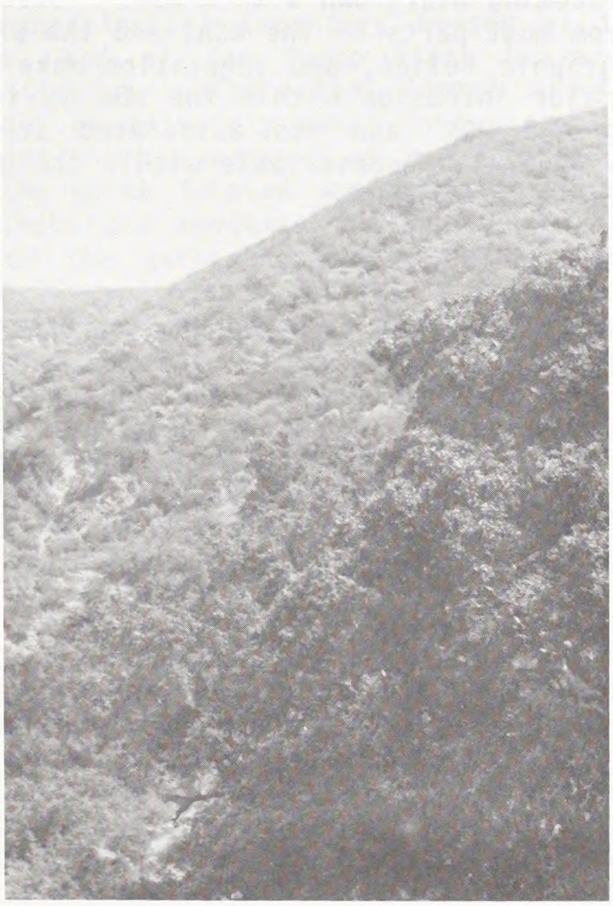


Photo 2. Chaparral-covered hillside on eastern portion of Agua Tibia WSA

BEAUTY MOUNTAIN WSA
(CA-060-020G)

The Beauty Mountain WSA contains 11,342 acres and is located approximately 35 miles northeast of the community of Escondido.

The eastern portion of the Beauty Mountain WSA is comprised of a series of steep, rugged mountainsides dominated by Beauty Mountain and Iron Spring Mountain. These mountains rise above the more gentle relief of the plateau that forms the western half of the WSA. Deep canyons have formed from drainage off more erosion-resistant ridges. Elevations range from 2,920 feet near Culp Valley in the northwest to 5,548 feet at Beauty Peak in the east.

WILDERNESS VALUES

Naturalness

The area is in essentially a natural condition, and is heavily vegetated on the north and east sides. A number of access routes to mining claims or other areas of interest exist within the unit, but are unmaintained, highly eroded, and becoming overgrown with brush. These routes are generally not apparent from most parts of the WSA, and the presence of twisting canyons, other topographic relief, and vegetation make them substantially unnoticeable. The major intrusion within the WSA is the patented Pawnee Mine, surrounded by the WSA, and its associated structures and road. These intrusions are generally unobservable within the unit, and the works of man are substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude

Many features combine to ensure that outstanding opportunities for solitude are available throughout the study area. The WSA's relative remoteness, large size, rugged and diverse terrain, and dense vegetation support a sense of isolation and solitude. The majority of the boundary is adjacent to private land and access to the WSA is extremely limited since permission of the landowner to cross his property is required. These factors indicate that even with increased accessibility and use the area is capable of ensuring future users many outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

The WSA currently supports a limited degree of hunting as well as hiking and backpacking. The diverse scenery provides attractive subject matter for both photography and painting. Deteriorating routes will continue to provide pedestrian access into the heart of the WSA.

Special Features

The area possesses outstanding scenic quality particularly in the eastern portions, due to a pleasing variety of lines, forms, colors, and textures. Undulating hills, steep twisting canyons, yellow, tan, and orange soils, and diversity in vegetation, size, and color all contribute to the area's scenic values.

LAND OWNERSHIP

The Beauty Mountain WSA contains 11,342 acres of public land. It is bordered on the north by Tule Creek and the south by Chihuahua Creek. The community of Aguanga, California, is located 3 miles west of the Beauty Mountain WSA's western border. Land ownership is a mix of private and public lands, with about 1,200 acres of private land located within the heart of the Beauty Mountain WSA. Access to the WSA is possible through existing trails and unimproved roads.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The WSA has never been subjected to formal archaeological survey and there are no cultural resource sites recorded within its boundaries. The records of the California Archaeological Inventory housed at the University of California, Riverside, and at San Diego State University (Information Center for San Diego County) indicate that formal surveys have been conducted on large parcels of privately owned land directly to the north of the WSA and some 3 miles south. A survey of 2,300 acres located in similar terrain directly to the north located and recorded seven bedrock milling features (grinding slicks and mortars) indicative of use of the area by aboriginal peoples for the gathering and processing of wild seeds and nutmeats as food. No time-diagnostic artifacts were found in association with the milling features so estimates of age of the sites are not possible; however, the subsistence practice of gathering and milling wild seeds and nutmeats was an important aspect of prehistoric life in southern California for several thousands of years. The recorded milling features are all situated at or near to perennial springs or intermittent streams, and as perennial springs and intermittent streams occur throughout the WSA it is reasonable to assume some milling features may occur within the WSA.

RECREATION

Most of the current recreational uses of the Beauty Mountain WSA center around the California Riding and Hiking Trail (CA R&HT) corridor. A 4½-mile segment of the CA R&HT forms the eastern boundary of the WSA. The trail, which is the temporary route of the PCNST, is used for hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. It is estimated that the CA R&HT provides approximately 1,000 visitor use days of trail-related nonmotorized recreation annually.

In 1987 construction of the permanent route for this segment of the PCNST is scheduled for completion. This will reroute the PCNST from its current location on the CA R&HT, resulting in a moderate reduction of use along the trail. However, the trail will still provide a significant amount of recreational use (500 VUDs) and continue to provide the only trail access to this WSA unit.

Outside the CA R&HT corridor the potential for high quality motorized and nonmotorized recreational opportunities exists, but is unrealized due to the availability of better quality alternative recreation sites and the absence of public access across private lands surrounding the WSA.

Approximately 23 miles of vehicle routes exist within the interior of the WSA. All but 3.6 miles of this road network is severely overgrown and shows little evidence of recent ORV use. Due to a lack of legal access nonhunting ORV use in this unit is low, estimated at less than 100 VUDs annually.

Approximately 200 VUDs of deer and upland game hunting per year is reported to occur in this WSA. Half of this use is motorized. Most hunting use originates from the scattering of deer camps that are located on private lands adjacent to the WSA. These camps are primarily maintained during October/November deer hunting seasons. Hunting pressure within the WSA would be much greater if not for the lack of public access.

Interesting and varied terrain coupled with an overgrown road network that could serve as a foot and/or equestrian trail system provide the potential for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational pursuits such as hiking, backpacking, and nature study. However, due to limited local demand and the absence of convenient access across private lands surrounding the WSA, use levels for this type of recreational use remain low at less than 100 VUDs per year.

VISUAL RESOURCES

The Beauty Mountain WSA (CA-060-020G) is located within the Southwest Mountain and Valley landscape province. The regional landscape is dominated by rolling foothills covered with moderate to extremely dense stands of even-aged chaparral. Numerous small drainages radiate out from the area's three prominent mountains, Tule Peak, Beauty Mountain, and Iron Springs Mountain. At lower elevations, these drainages coalesce to form strong linear elements comprised primarily of dark-colored lines of riparian woodland interspersed with short stretches of light-colored sandy, rocky soils. Well-developed, undulating features are found throughout the area as a result of the region's characteristic mosaic vegetation pattern. In this case, dense stands of vegetation dominate northern and western-facing slopes and less dense stands predominate the southern and eastern slopes. Rock outcrops and areas of bare soil can be found throughout the unit, however, they tend to serve as detail features and are subordinate to the area's landform and vegetative features. At higher elevations, the incidence of exposed soil and rock increases giving the area a mottled appearance.

Structural features in the form of roads and fuelbreaks are scattered throughout the WSA. In most situations, vehicle routes are hidden from view by intervening vegetation or topography. Structures associated with historic mining activity are limited to private land within the WSA. Generally, these structures are not visible at distances of more than a few hundred yards due to the screening effect of the native vegetation.

From the unit, views of the Chihuahua Valley and Oak Grove Valley are excellent. These agriculturally dominated areas consist of a mosaic pattern of green, golden, and brown fields.

As a WSA, the site is managed under VRM Class 2 guidelines, affording the area a suitable level of protection during interim management. The scenic quality of the area has been given an "A" (excellent) rating based on the evaluation of seven criteria: landform, color, water features, vegetation, uniqueness, human modifications, and adjacent scenery.

VEGETATION

The WSA is characterized by three different native vegetation types. These types are different from vegetation types of the same name from coastward types. The vegetation types are chaparral, inland sage scrub, and oak woodland.

Chaparral occurs over most the property and is dominated by red-shank (*Adenostoma sparsifolium*), although small patches of nearly pure chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) are occasionally interspersed. Red-shank chaparral is limited in its occurrence to the loose, sandy soils of the floodplains. Red-shank and its associated floral elements such as holly-leaf redberry (*Rhamnus ilicifolia*), scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*), and buck brush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*) are confined to the rockier, more exposed ridges on the property.

Inland sage scrub vegetation occurs in the sandy alluvium below the ridges. This vegetation appears to be disturbance-associated because many herbacious species and short-lived shrub species are found there. Cattle and rodent activity may be responsible for maintaining this vegetation type, and excluding chaparral. Dominant elements of red-shank chaparral are absent from inland sage scrub. The latter type is characterized by deer-weed (*Lotus scoparious*), pine-bush (*Haplopappus pinifolius*), Douglas butterweed (*Senecio douglasii*), Action's encelia (*Encelia virginensis*), and valley cholla (*Opuntia parryi parryi*). The diversity and density of annuals is high in this habitat as evidenced by the remains present. Some dried remains were identifiable: lessingia (*Lessingia glandulifera*), balu-phlox (*Eriastrum densifolium austromontanum*), and squirreltail (*Sitanion jubatum*).

Oak woodland vegetation occurs where water is nearer the ground surface. Because of soil porosity and other unknown factors, surface water appears at only some locations on site. The woodlands are marked by well-developed coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*), some small western sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*), and a few willows (*Salix* sp.). A sparse understory mainly of chaparral and sage scrub elements completes this association. Oak woodlands on site lack the characteristic understory species and herbaceous development common closer to the coast. Poison-oak, potentilla, eleocharis, nightshades and other forms were conspicuously absent.

Several sensitive taxa were expected but not found on the property: Aster bernardinus, Berberis nevinii, Penstemon californicus, Lessingia glandulifera tomentosa, collected only once in the past at Warner's Springs and sought in "good years" by botanists apparently does not occur there.

WILDLIFE

Beauty Mountain Wilderness Study Area supports a substantial deer herd, estimated at 1-3 per square mile, and provides yearlong habitat for upland game, such as Mountain Quail. The chaparral and oak grove habitats found in the WSA are both very productive wildlife habitats although the grove habitat tends to support a greater diversity. Neither of these habitats is classified as rare.

Reptile species typically associated with chaparral include western whiptail (Cnemidophorus tigris), side-blotched lizard (Uta stansburiana), San Diego alligator lizard (Gerrhonotus multicarinatus webbi), western rattlesnake (Crotalus viridis) and gopher snake (Pituophis melanoleucus). Many of the bird species associated with chaparral are ground-foragers adapted to the thick brush such as Rufous-sided Towhee and Sage Sparrow. Raptors utilize the more open areas to forage and may nest in the denser stands of oaks. Typical mammals include coyote (Canus latrans), gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus), bobcat (Lynx rufus), as well as dusky-footed woodrat (Neotoma fuscipes) and several species of mice.

Species of Special Concern

Although not recorded within the Beauty Mountain WSA the San Diego horned lizard (Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei) and the orange-throated whiptail (Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingi) may occur in the flatter areas where the soil contains a substantial amount of sand. Both of these species are Category 2 candidates for Federal listing.

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

The Beauty Mountain WSA encompasses an area containing two major rock divisions. To the west of Beauty Peak lie granitic rocks of the mesozoic granite batholith which is common throughout southern California. This batholith is composed of a complex combination of granite, adamellite, granodiorite, tonalite, and diorite. Locally the granitic rocks form boulders on the surface due to differential erosion. East of Beauty Peak lies a complex of pre-cenozoic granitic and metamorphic rocks. Locally quartilite and gneissic rocks were preserved.

Structurally the WSA is bisected by two faults. One fault lies along Culp Valley and trends northwest-southeast and disappears southeast of Beauty Peak. Hot Springs Peak begins about where the first fault disappears and continues southeast. These faults are part of the Agua Caliente Fault Zone.

Approximately 1 mile southeast of Beauty Peak is the Pawnee Mine which was mined for tungsten (scheelite) during the Korean War. This mine is located on patented mining claims. Throughout the WSA prospect pits can be observed and historically the California Journal of Mines and Geology (Vol. 35, Jan. 1939) shows several mines which are located on the southern boundary of the WSA in Sections 4 and 5, T. 9 S., R. 3 E., and numerous prospect pits.

The prospects and mines occur on and around the faults. This indicates that mineralization has occurred in the fault zones and this is further supported by field observations during a drive-through survey. Throughout the WSA numerous pegmatite veins were observed. Primary mineralization consisted of plagluclase feldspar with feldspar crystals of 6-8 inches being observed. Only rarely were tourmaline crystals observed in the pegmatite. These tourmaline crystals consisted of pink splintery masses oriented along defined veins or in isolated masses. Free quartz was observed only rarely.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Most of the WSA is within the Beauty Mountain cattle grazing allotment. This 17,413-acre area is used year-round by 121 cattle, with an allocation of 1,452 animal unit months (AUMs). About 60 percent of the allotment is within the WSA. Approximately 360 acres of the WSA is within the Tule Valley Allotment (a 2,062-acre allotment supporting 172 AUMs annually), and 480 acres in the northeast corner of the WSA is within the Rogers Canyon Allotment (a 1,202-acre allotment supporting 102 AUMs annually).

Existing range improvements within the WSA are few, limited to fences on portions of the WSA. Livestock utilization of each of the three allotments is approximately 150 AUMs based on the percentage of each allotment contained within the WSA.

Current plans call for the construction of several new range improvements on the Beauty Mountain Allotment, including two water developments (one spring and one reservoir) and 1 mile of fence. A prescribed burn of 1,000 acres is also planned for the allotment for a projected increase of 30 percent in forage allocations.

SOILS AND WATERSHED RESOURCES

The soils are predominantly of the Tollhouse-Sheephead-Crafton association; excessively drained to well drained on gently rolling to steep slopes. They are shallow to moderately deep with a surface layer of loam on granitic rock, susceptible to accelerated erosion if disturbed. Rock outcrops and exposed boulders are present in some areas, particularly on the steep slopes. The soils present have value for watershed protection and providing for wildlife habitat.

AQUIFER USE

Runoff from the area provides recharge to the alluvial groundwater basin of the Temecula Valley where groundwater is used for irrigation, municipal, industrial, and domestic uses. The area itself, however, is underlaid by consolidated rock which would yield very limited quantities of water to wells. Numerous springs and intermittent streams are present within the canyons on the area, and are valuable for wildlife and recreation.

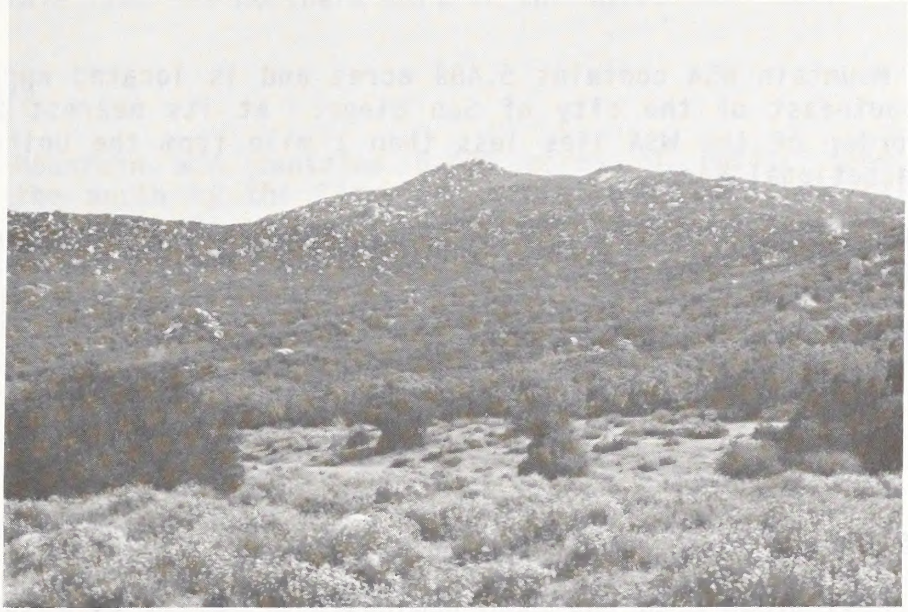


Photo 3. Northeast-facing view of boulder-strewn mountainside in Beauty Mountain WSA

Photo 4. Southeast-facing view of Beauty Mountain WSA from vicinity of Pawnee Mine

HAUSER MOUNTAIN WSA
(CA-060-027C)

The Hauser Mountain WSA contains 5,489 acres and is located approximately 45 miles southeast of the city of San Diego. At its nearest point, the southern border of the WSA lies less than 1 mile from the United States-Mexico International Border.

The unit is basically a single, broad, undulating ridge oriented north-south in an area of alternating low ridges and valleys. The area ranges in elevation from 2,400 feet in the southeast to 3,800 feet at the USGS Campo VABM horizontal control station. Numerous rocky outcrops occur throughout the unit, but nowhere in the unit is there exceptional relief.

WILDERNESS VALUES

Naturalness

This Wilderness Study Area has been dominated primarily by natural forces and exhibits an undeveloped, primeval character. Unrestricted access into the site has been limited by the surrounding private land. Potential users are discouraged by fences, locked gates, and the requirement to obtain permission from property owners. Man-made intrusions within the site are generally restricted to facilities, fences, and routes of travel needed to support the grazing allotments. These improvements are inconspicuous and do not negatively impact the naturalness of the study area.

Solitude

Rugged topography and dense vegetation provide outstanding opportunities for solitude throughout the unit. Use levels are very low, and opportunities for solitude are excellent due to the area's remoteness, lack of usable vehicle routes, and unobtrusive adjacent land uses (ranching, beekeeping, and some rural residences). Rolling terrain, shallow canyons, huge rock outcrops in addition to tall, dense vegetation combine to provide the screening needed to enhance the sense of isolation.

Primitive or Unconfined Types of Recreation

Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation are provided within the study area borders. This WSA currently supports light hunting, hiking, backpacking, and equestrian use. The southern end of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail passes through the area before crossing the United States-Mexico International Border. Opportunities for unconfined types of recreation are limited only by local areas of dense vegetation and some fences supporting the grazing allotments.

Special Features

The dense chaparral and southern oak woodland combine with several seeps and exposed granitic rock formations to form a visually attractive area. Six plants identified as "rare" by the CNPS are known from or near the area, and provide opportunities for nature study and photography. Nearby, Morena Butte, a colorful extruded promontory, is a prominent regional landmark visible from the northern part of the unit.

LAND OWNERSHIP

The Hauser Mountain WSA contains 5,489 acres of public land. It is bordered on the north by the Cleveland National Forest. All other lands are private property bordering the WSA on the east, south, and west. About 600 acres of private land are located within the Hauser Mountain WSA and access is available through existing trails and unimproved roads. A portion of the Pacific Crest Trail runs north-south through the middle of the Hauser Mountain WSA. State Highway 94 runs along the southern edge of the Hauser Mountain WSA. The nearest community is Campo, California, located to the east of Hauser Mountain.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The records of the California Archaeological Inventory housed at San Diego State University indicate that no large-scale intensive surveys have been conducted within or near the WSA and that no cultural resource sites are recorded within its boundaries. A 1.3-mile-long linear survey conducted by the California Department of Transportation just south of the WSA recorded a possible occupation site consisting of bedrock milling features, lithic flakes, and ceramic sherds indicative of late-prehistoric (post ca. A.D. 1600) use of the area, and a 7-mile-long survey conducted by the Forest Service in connection with construction of a segment of the Pacific Crest Trail recorded a single bedrock grinding slick near the northeast corner of the WSA. Both sites are situated near intermittent streams in an environmental setting duplicated many times in the WSA. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect cultural resource sites within the WSA, particularly near water sources and in adjacent areas.

RECREATION

Backpacking, hiking, equestrian use, and hunting have been recorded in this unit. Hiking and other nonmotorized recreational use account for less than 325 visitor use days (VUDs) per year. Most of the use originates from the north and is the result of the extended use of the Hauser Canyon area within the Cleveland National Forest. Motorized vehicle use is estimated at 400 VUDs per year. Most motorized use--250 visitor use days annually--is associated with hunting access. This use occurs along existing vehicle routes within the unit.

The major factor for low use levels for both motorized and nonmotorized recreational activities is the lack of legal public access. This WSA is completely landlocked and locked gates on the surrounding private lands prevent public access to this unit.

The proposed route for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCNST) passes through the eastern half of this WSA and is scheduled for completion in 1987.

VISUAL RESOURCES

The Hauser Mountain WSA (CA-060-027) is located within the southwestern Mountain and Valley landscape province and the Scenic Quality Rating Unit, M26 (Hauser Mountain). The massive, granitic boulders scattered over the landscape provide a measure of visual character to the WSA. Interspersed with the large rocks, are species of the coastal sage scrub community which provide an interesting overall texture to the unit. The landforms consist of rolling hills and broad valleys. Nothing more drastic, in terms of relief, is found in the area.

The valleys of the WSA and surrounding region support an oak savannah vegetation type. The grasslands provide a seasonal range of color from soft green in the spring to deep golden in the summer and fall. The evergreen live oaks and chaparral contrast sharply.

Few structural features exist and are not components of the visual make-up of the site.

As a WSA, the site is managed under VRM Class 2 guidelines, affording the area a suitable level of protection during interim management. The scenic quality of the area has been given a "B" (good) rating based on the evaluation of seven criteria: landform, color, water features, vegetation, uniqueness, human modifications, and adjacent scenery. The visual sensitivity of the site has been rated high.

VEGETATION

The chaparral vegetation is the most predominant community in the WSA. Coastal sage scrub and oak woodland communities are also located throughout the area.

These vegetation types are characterized by the following plant species:

- *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (toyon)
- *Prunus ilicifolia* (cherry)
- *Rhus ovata* (sugarbush)
- *Quercus dumosa* (scrub oak)
- *Quercus durata* (leather oak)
- *Salvia mellifera* (black sage)
- *Sambucus caerulea* (elderberry)
- *Yucca whipplei* (our Lord's candle)
- *Adenostoma fasciculatum* (chamise)
- *Adenostoma sparsifolium* (red shank)
- *Arctostaphylos* spp. (manzanita)
- *Ceanothus* spp. (wild lilac)
- *Cercocarpus betuloides* (mtn. mahogany)
- *Cercocarpus minutiflorus* (mtn. mahogany)
- *Encelia farinosa* (brittlebush)
- *Eriogonum* spp. (wild buckwheat)
- *Eriodycton angustifolium* (yerba-santa)

There are six sensitive species know to occur within the vicinity of the Hauser Mountain WSA. They are, (*Hemizonia floribunda*, *Ribes canthariforme*, *Solanum tenuilobatum*, *Pyrrocoma uniflora* var. *gossypina*, *Chamaebatia australis*, *Cupressus guadalupensis* ssp. *forbesii*). Of these species only one (*Hemizonia floribunda*) was found on or near Hauser Mountain. This species is found in dry slopes and valleys, roadsides, and sandy washes in coastal sage scrub, chaparral and grassland. It is believed to respond favorably to fire and would probably not be affected adversely by road cut or firebreaks (California Native Plant Society, 1977, Rare Plant Report).

Environment

WILDLIFE

The dense chaparral covering much of the Hauser Wilderness Study Area supports a typical array of wildlife species. A small herd of deer persists and the area is used heavily by raptors that nest in the nearby Potrero area and within the WSA.

Typical species include coyote (Canus latrans), gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus), bobcat (Lynx rufus), brush rabbit (Sylvilagus bachmani), dusky-footed woodrat (Neotoma fuscipes), Mountain Quail, Scrub Jay, Bushtit, Rufous-sided Towhee, western fence lizard (Sceloporus occidentalis) and western rattlesnake (Crotalus viridis).

Species of Special Concern

Two species of lizard, the San Diego horned lizard (Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei) and the orange-throated whiptail (Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingi) may occur in the flatter areas of the WSA where the soil contains a substantial amount of sand.

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

The Hauser WSA encompasses an area composed almost exclusively of the mesozoic granitic batholith that is common in southern California. Locally the granitic rocks are described by the stratigraphic nomenclature for the San Diego sheet as Bonsall Tonalite and the Woodson Mountain Granodiorite. The Bonsall Tonalite is described as a light-gray massive quartz diorite characterized by abundant streaked out dark inclusions, and the Woodson Mountain Granodiorite is a light-colored granodiorite which weathers along joints to form huge white or pink, rounded knobs. These granitic rocks are the same formations which compose the Hauser Roadless Area which is north of and adjacent to the WSA.

Excerpt from U.S. Bureau of Mines Report for U.S. Forest Service Hauser Roadless Area:

> The Hauser Roadless Area is underlain by five plutonic units, three of which belong to the syntectonic intrusive sequence (the Cuyamaca Gabbro, the tonalite of Japatul Valley, and the granite of Corte Madera) and two belonging to the younger sequence (the late tectonic tonalite of Granite Mountain and post-tectonic leucotonalite, the tonalite of La Posta, the latter also designated as the La Posta Quartz Diorite of Miller, 1935). Minor prebatholithic rocks occur between plutons, chiefly metavolcanic rocks on bodies too small to portray at the map scale. Several large gouge zones were mapped in Hauser Canyon, and the existence of additional parallel zones can be inferred from indirect evidence (linear valleys, truncated contacts, vegetation bands, benches). These gouge zones mark high-angle faults that trend west to northwest and are approximately parallel to the axis of the canyon.

There is no evidence of potential mineral resources, either nonmetallic or metallic, within the Hauser Roadless Area, with the possible exception of feldspar. Geochemical analyses of 16 samples of stream sediments showed no significant variations in concentrations of major, minor, or trace elements. Local slight geochemical anomalies in a few elements reflect the abundance of particular rock types in or near the study area.

The Hauser area has low potential for significant occurrences of potash feldspar. A field search of the area has disclosed two feldspar-bearing pegmatite occurrences. These pegmatite bodies are poorly exposed, but appear to be small and are remote from improved highways and markets. Their potential for feldspar resources is low. Potash feldspar has been defined commercially as containing 10 percent K_2O or more, but it is currently common to find 8 percent K_2O marketed (Potter, 1981). An occurrence in Corral Canyon qualifies as commercial-grade potash feldspar, but low apparent tonnage, high development costs, and remoteness from markets make it noncompetitive at this time. There is no indication of potential geothermal, hydrocarbon, or nuclear energy resources.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Parts of the Hauser Mountain and Potrero Allotments include portions of the WSA. Nearly all of the authorized Hauser Mountain lease is within the WSA. This lease covers 2,952 acres and provides 66 AUMs for 72 cattle from December 15 through June 15. Approximately 2,000 acres of the Potrero Allotment (an 8,594-acre allotment providing 726 AUMs) is in the WSA. Sixty-one cattle graze this allotment on a season-long basis. Areas suitable for grazing are located primarily along valley bottoms and vehicle routes, where there is an absence of heavy brush. Range improvements consist of fences which cross the unit in several locations.

Several range improvements are currently planned, including the construction of 1 mile of fence and the development of a water source.

Prescribed burns of 1,000 and 500 acres, respectively, are planned for the Hauser Mountain and Potrero Allotments. Approximately 1,000 acres will be conducted within the WSA. The burns would potentially increase forage allocations by 250 AUMs on the Potrero Allotment and by 500 AUMs on the Hauser Mountain Allotment.

SOILS AND WATERSHED RESOURCES

Soils are predominantly of the Tollhouse-La Posta-Rockland association; excessively drained and well-drained coarse sandy loams and loamy coarse sands over granitic rock. Some areas contain bedrock and exposed boulders. The soils are susceptible to accelerated erosion after disturbance, and if not disturbed are valuable for watershed protection and providing for wildlife habitat.

AQUIFER USE

Runoff from the area drains outside the WSA into either Hauser Creek to the north or Campo Creek to the south. This runoff provides recharge to the Campo Valley groundwater basin where water supplies are used for agricultural and domestic use. The groundwater resources within the WSA are limited and of insufficient quantities to support extensive development. The limited supplies are available in intermittent streams and springs which are beneficial for wildlife and livestock wintering.

Photo 5. Mountainous Hauser Mountain WSA lies to the west of private valley ranch property

Photo 6. Rock outcrop on northern side of Hauser Mountain WSA looms above private pasture

WESTERN OTAY MOUNTAIN WSA
(CA-060-028)

The Western Otay Mountain WSA contains 5,750 acres and is located approximately 15 miles southeast of the city of San Diego.

The Otay Mountains are a subunit of the San Ysidro Mountains, and range in elevation from approximately 400 feet along the western portions to about 3,400 feet on Otay Mountain. The area rises above a mesa on the west, and is deeply dissected by numerous ephemeral streams. Erosion along these streams produces steep canyons which are the dominant features of the unit.

WILDERNESS VALUES

Naturalness

The Western Otay Mountain Wilderness Study Area has been dominated primarily by natural forces. The imprint of man's work is negligible. Areas which reflect human activity, which are located along the Otay Mountain Truck Trail, have been excluded from the study area. This maintained dirt road, which separates the Western and Southern Otay Mountain WSAs, supports a number of military helicopter training facilities which are located adjacent to it. In addition, three large concrete World War II gun implacements which overlook the land mass to the Pacific Ocean still remain. Although unnatural, their potential historical and interpretive value add a unique dimension to the area. A number of ways related to past use of the area can be found within the borders but they are naturalizing and will eventually disappear.

Solitude

Limited access, a varied landform, and diverse vegetation patterns provide numerous areas of complete isolation. The networks of spaces generated by steep mountain sides, rock outcrops, depressions and tall, dense vegetation ensure numerous opportunities for solitude within the borders.

Primitive or Unconfined Types of Recreation

Opportunities for primitive or unconfined types of recreation abound within the WSA. The pristine nature of the environment ensures a sense of freedom and unrestricted movement. The area currently receives light hunting and hiking use, and is occasionally used by botanists and photographers interested in the unique vegetation assemblage and views to the north, south, and west. The area appears capable of continuing to provide outstanding opportunities for these activities for the foreseeable future.

Special Features

The two Otay Mountain WSAs, separately or together, provide outstanding opportunities for scientific and educational use of an unequaled and unique plant assemblage. Many officially listed and candidate plant species are locally common which are found nowhere else, or which in the United States, are found only in this area.

LAND OWNERSHIP

The Western Otay Mountain WSA contains 5,750 acres of public land. It is located southeast of Chula Vista, California, just north of the Mexico-California International Border. The WSA can be entered from the west along an existing unimproved road/firebreak called the Otay Mountain Truck Trail. Additional trails (footpaths) are scattered throughout the area due to illegal aliens entering the United States from Mexico. Private lands abut the WSA on its western and northern borders and are largely undeveloped properties.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The records of the California Archaeological Inventory housed at San Diego State University indicate that a large-scale intensive cultural resource survey has been conducted on portions of the WSA, and that three archaeological sites have been recorded within its boundaries. Prehistoric sites include a rock quarry and, approximately one-half mile southeast of the quarry, a surface scatter of flakes of the same material as that being quarried. The third recorded site is a historic period water reservoir probably related to cattle grazing on the property during the past 50 years. Other historic resources near the WSA but outside its boundaries consist of World War II big gun emplacements and observation bunkers installed to command a view to the south and west in 1942 when fear of a Japanese invasion of the west coast was high. Despite the low density of sites recorded in the portions of the WSA that have been surveyed, additional sites may exist on the uninventoried portions.

RECREATION

Recreational use of the Western Otay Mountain WSA is dispersed and can be categorized as nonmotorized. Some hiking and hunting are reported to occur throughout the unit (100 visitor use days annually). Of special interest is the area's unique botany. The area's unique complex of sensitive and rare plants provides outstanding opportunities for natural history studies and photography of rare plants. Plant studies and photography by individuals, natural history groups, and representatives of educational institutions is the principal recreational use of the WSA. It is estimated that nonmotorized recreational use accounts for 500 visitor use days per year.

ORV use in the WSA is extremely limited due to a lack of vehicle routes, restricted access, and rugged, steep terrain. One vehicle route, the Little Cedar Truck Trail, exists in the northwestern portion of the WSA. Access is restricted on this route that accesses a private land inholding. The 1-mile segment of this route in the WSA accounts for 25 ORV visitor use days per year.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Because of their close proximity, the Visual Resource sections of Western Otay Mountain WSA (CA-060-028) and Southern Otay Mountain WSA (CA-060-029) have been combined.

Otay Mountain is the highest peak in the small San Ysidro Mountain range. The area is located in the Southwest Mountain and Valley landscape province and Scenic Quality Rating Unit, M31. Dense chaparral covers the foothills and steep mountain slopes that comprise the area. Pale gray, granitic, rock outcroppings dot the landscape adding a layer of texture and enhancing the mottled coloring of the vegetation. Within the swales and ravines, dense vegetation shows up dark green as does dense north slope chaparral. Other slope aspects are less heavily vegetated thus allowing patches of the light tan, sandy soil to show through. Lines throughout the area are undulating, expressed mainly by the lines of the rolling hills. The Otay road splitting the two WSA units provides the most striking man-made line. Although construction and improvements have been minimal, the pale colored cuts and fills of this road set it apart from the dark green vegetation.

Most man-made structures have been cherrystemmed out of the WSA. However, they still intrude into the WSA visually. Several communication sites are located on top of Otay Mountain. Some of the towers may rise as high as 50 feet above the top of the ridge, remaining visible for significant distances into the WSA. The helicopter pads are far less noticeable and because of terrain and vegetation, visible for only a short distance. The World War II bunkers are less obtrusive yet. Thirty years of weathering have darkened the exteriors sufficiently so that they have become more harmonious with the landscape. These structures, too, are well screened by vegetation.

Because of the elevation, vistas from Otay Mountain are exceptional. To the west lie the rural Otay Mesa and Valley. Occasionally, when air quality permits, Tijuana, San Diego, and the Pacific Ocean are visible. North lies Lower Otay Reservoir and the Jamul Mountains. To the east, Sycamore Canyon is the predominant view. To the south, one can see over the international border into Mexico.

As a WSA, the site is managed under VRM Class 2 guidelines, affording the area a suitable level of protection during interim management. The scenic quality of the area has been given a "B" (good) rating based on the evaluation of seven criteria: landform, color, water features, vegetation, uniqueness, human modifications, and adjacent scenery.

VEGETATION

Otay Mountain has long been considered a unique vegetation area. Many rare and significant plants which abound on Otay are of very limited distribution elsewhere. In 1968 Otay Mountain was listed as a "Research Natural Area" in the Directory of Federal Natural Areas. The nomination of Otay as a natural area was proposed because of the unique vegetational character and primarily due to its relatively large stands of Tecate cypress, a rare plant indigenous to only a few localities in California and Mexico. Many university groups and individuals have visited Otay Mountain to observe and study the flora and other natural aspects. The San Diego Natural History Museum has sponsored field trips up Otay as part of its program of helping people become aware of the natural environment in San Diego County.

Plant Associations

Several vegetation associations are represented within the broad area known as Otay Mountain. These include true chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and oak woodland. A partial list of plant species found on Otay is in the Appendix (see Appendix A).

Most all of the WSA falls within the true chaparral vegetation association described in the San Diego County Unit Resource Analysis. Dominant plants include chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa*). Stands of Tecate cypress (*Cupressus forbesii*) occur as inclusions within the chaparral. These stands are generally on the north slopes where they form dense thickets. Coastal sage scrub occurs near the base of Otay and is most evident within the Marron Valley and around Lower Otay Reservoir. Commonly occurring plants include California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*). Oak woodlands can be found on the valleys surrounding Otay and along drainages. It is a tree-dominated association with a grass-forb understory. Coastal live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) are dominant.

Rare Plants

Several plants on Otay Mountain are included in the California Native Plant Society's List of Rare and Endangered Plants. Otay manzanita (*Arctostaphylos otayensis*) and mariposa (*Calochortus dunnii*) are plants considered rare and endangered. Plants considered rare but not endangered include: mountain misery (*Chamaebatia australis*), Tecate cypress (*Cupressus forbesii*), and Gander's pitcher-sage (*Lepechinia ganderi*). In addition to these eight plants, there are several others of interest. Two worthy of mention which are abundant on Otay are Otay ceanothus (*Ceanothus otayensis*) and chaparral pea (*Pickeringia montana*).

WILDLIFE

The Western Otay WSA contains prime foraging and breeding areas for raptors, including Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk. Marsh Hawk and White-tailed Kite may utilize the flatter areas along the western boundary of the WSA near the Lower Otay Reservoir. A small herd of mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) exist within the WSA. The new growth areas and international fuelbreak provide the best habitat.

Other typical species include bobcat (Lynx rufus), coyote (Canus latrans), gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus), brush rabbit (Sylvilagus bachmani), dusky-footed woodrat (Neotoma fuscipes), Rufous-sided Towhee, Bushtit, California Quail, western whiptail (Cnemidophorus tigris), and western rattlesnake (Crotalus viridis).

Species of Special Concern

One of the critical habitats designated for the Least Bell's Vireo, recently listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is located along Lower Otay Reservoir just west of the Western Otay WSA. Although there are no records of Least Bell's Vireo in the Western Otay WSA the dynamic nature of the willow habitat it utilizes does not preclude its occurrence particularly in the nonsuitable areas at the western and northern boundaries of the WSA.

Two species of lizards, San Diego horned lizard (Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei) and orange-throated whiptail (Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingi) may occur in the flatter portions of the WSA where the soil contains a substantial amount of sand. Both of these species are Category 2 candidates for Federal listing.

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

Excerpt from U.S. Bureau of Mines Open File Report (draft):

Geology

> The San Ysidro Mountains are within a discontinuous 110-mile-long, 10-mile-wide zone of Late Jurassic rocks that trend N. 40° W. in California (Strand, 1962, map; Balch, 1981, fig. 2). These rocks are termed the Santiago Peak Volcanics, and consist of a complex blend of volcanic and sedimentary rocks that formed within a submarine island-arc environment (Buesch, 1984, p. 3-5). Following metamorphism, which produced a greenschist facies, these rocks were tilted to the northeast and intruded by a granitic batholith east of the WSAs (Balch, 1981, p. 7).
>
> The Santiago Peak Volcanic rocks are relatively unfaulted, but structural history is incomplete. Some faults mapped may be bedding plane thrust faults, which would explain the overturned section of rocks in Lusardi Canyon, 35 miles northwest of the San Ysidro Mountains (Balch, 1981, p. 12). The regional strike and dip is consistent with the N. 45° W., 20-40° N.E. measurements observed in the Southern and Western Otay Mountain WSAs.
>
> Petrographic examinations indicate that the rocks were originally flows or layers of dacite, rhyolite, latite, andesite, or mudstone (Steven Koehler, 1986, written communication). Layers that contain rock fragments of these compositions are tuffs and agglomerates. Identification is difficult as silicification and

metamorphism have largely replaced original rock textures or compositions. Finely disseminated pyrite is pervasive throughout most rocks and is considered a primary mineral (Balch, 1981, p. 30).

Evidence of mineralization in the WSAs is not obvious. There are no known faults, quartz veins or outcrops of granitic intrusions. The small amounts of gold found in some samples are most likely attributable to postulated gold-bearing extrusive volcanic centers located in the area of workings in O'Neal and Mine Canyons. Layers of rhyolite to dacite that have been silicified and sericitized cover barren, black, flow-banded dacite in both areas.

Mining Activity

In the Western Otay Mountain study area no evidence was found in the literature or from field investigation that indicated any historical mining activity.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Approximately 4,500 acres (80 percent) of the Otay Mountain Allotment is within the Western Otay WSA. This is a 5,522-acre allotment which provides 222 AUMs of forage. During the period from February 1 to April 30, 74 head of cattle graze within this allotment.

New range improvements currently planned include 1 mile of fence and one spring development. Also planned for the allotment is a 1,000-acre prescribed burn which would potentially increase forage allocations by a projected 500 AUMs.

SOILS AND WATERSHED RESOURCES

Soils are predominantly of the Exchequer-San Miguel association. They are well-drained silt loams interspersed with boulders, over metavolcanic rock on moderately steep to steep slopes. These soils are of relatively low fertility, runoff is rapid and the erosion hazard is high. The most practical means of erosion control is the maintenance of permanent vegetation cover.

AQUIFER USE

Seasonal springs and intermittent streams are few within the WSA, but are valuable to wildlife. The area drains to Dulzura Creek and the Otay Valley groundwater basin to the north and west. Groundwater supplies within the WSA itself are limited and of insufficient quantities to support extensive development.

Photo 7. Northeast-facing view of Western Otay Mountain WSA from Otay Mountain Truck Trail

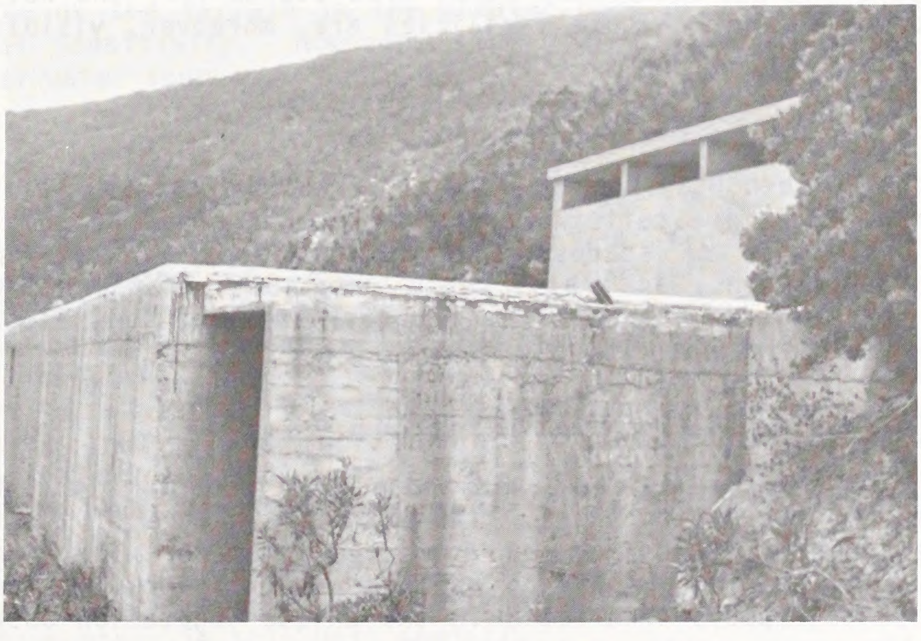


Photo 8. World War II bunker overlooking Pacific Ocean near border of Western Otay Mountain WSA

SOUTHERN OTAY MOUNTAIN WSA
(CA-060-029)

The Southern Otay Mountain WSA contains 7,940 acres and is located approximately 18 miles southeast of downtown San Diego. The northern border of the WSA coincides with the Otay Mountain Truck Trail which separates it from the Western Otay Mountain WSA. The eastern, western, and a portion of the southern border parallel section lines. The remaining portion of the southern border lies along the United States-Mexico International Border. The unit is part of the San Ysidro Mountains block of the Peninsular Range geomorphic province, and ranges in elevation from approximately 255 meters (800 feet) above mean sea level at the southwestern boundary to 1,100 meters (3,551 feet) near the northern boundary. This area is the eastern portion of the San Ysidro Mountain mass, and is deeply incised by numerous ephemeral streams which have produced canyons which are the area's dominant feature.

WILDERNESS VALUES

Naturalness

The area is in an essentially natural condition, as is the adjacent Western Otay Mountain WSA, although the two units are separated by helicopter pads, communication sites, and paved and maintained dirt roads, all of which are technically outside the WSAs. The area is in an essentially natural condition with the only intrusions being occasional firebreaks and fuelbreaks. Although visible and often perceived as intrusions, the communications facilities, paved and maintained dirt roads, and helicopter pads are actually outside the wilderness study area boundaries, and not subject to these recommendations. Those facilities are, moreover, visible only from a small portion of the WSA.

Solitude

As with the Western Otay Mountain WSA, the limited access, varied landform and diverse vegetative patterns provide numerous areas of complete isolation. The network of spaces generated by steep mountain sides, rock outcrops, depressions, and tall, dense vegetation ensure numerous opportunities for solitude inside of the border. Distractions associated with road activities dissipate rapidly with distance.

Primitive or Unconfined Types of Recreation

As in the adjoining study area, many opportunities for primitive or unconfined types of recreation exist. The primitive nature of the environment ensures a sense of freedom and unrestricted movement. The area currently receives light hunting and hiking use, and is occasionally used by botanists and photographers interested in the unique vegetation assemblage and views to the north, south, and west. The area appears capable of continuing to provide outstanding opportunities for these activities for the foreseeable future.

Environment

Special Features

The two Otay Mountain WSAs, separately or together, provide outstanding opportunities for scientific and educational use of an unequaled and unique plant assemblage. Many officially listed and candidate plant species are locally common which are found nowhere else, or which, in the United States are found only in this area.

LAND OWNERSHIP

The Southern Otay Mountain WSA contains 7,940 acres and is located adjacent to and southeast of the Western Otay Mountain WSA. It is bordered on the north by public land and on the west and east by private property. The southern portion of the WSA borders a mixture of private land and Federal land established by Proclamation on May 27, 1907. The aforementioned Federal land consists of an International Border 60 feet wide which separates the United States of America from the Republic of Mexico.

Access is predominately by unimproved trails. The Otay Mountain Truck Trail bisects the Western Otay and Southern Otay Mountain WSAs and is the principal access into the area.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Records at the California Archaeological Inventory housed at San Diego State University indicate that no sites have been recorded within the WSA and that no cultural resource surveys have taken place. Except for the relatively level mesa at the western end, the extreme steepness and highly erosive nature of the terrain in the greater part of the WSA suggest low archaeological sensitivity. However, sites could exist near springs or other seasonal water sources.

RECREATION

Recreation use of the Southern Otay Mountain WSA is dispersed and can be categorized as nonmotorized. Some hiking is reported to occur throughout the unit (200 visitor use days annually). Of special interest is the area's unique botany. The area's unique complex of sensitive and rare plants provides outstanding opportunities for natural history studies and photography of rare plants. Plant studies and photography by individuals, natural history groups, and representatives of educational institutions are the principal recreation uses of the WSA. It is estimated that nonmotorized recreational use accounts for 500 visitor use days per year.

ORV use in the WSA is extremely limited, due to a lack of vehicle routes, restricted access, and rugged, steep terrain. It is estimated that 100 ORV visitor days occur in this unit annually.

VISUAL RESOURCES

See the Visual Resources section under the Western Otay Mountain WSA on p. 85.

VEGETATION

See the Vegetation section under the Western Otay Mountain WSA on p. 85.

WILDLIFE

Southern Otay Wilderness Study Area is a prime breeding and foraging area for raptors, including Red-shouldered Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and an occasional Golden Eagle. The more open areas of chaparral and the international fuelbreak provide forage for a small herd of mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus).

Other typical wildlife species include coyote (Canus latrans), bobcat (Lynx rufus), gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus), brush rabbit (Sylvilagus bachmani) dusky-footed woodrat (Neotoma fuscipes), Rufous-sided Towhee, Bushtit, California Quail, western whiptail (Cnemidophorus tigris), and western rattlesnake (Crotalus viridis).

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

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Geology

> The San Ysidro Mountains are within a discontinuous 110-mile-long, 10-mile-wide zone of Late Jurassic rocks that trend N. 40° W. in California (Strand, 1962, map; Balch, 1981, fig. 2). These rocks are termed the Santiago Peak Volcanics, and consist of a complex blend of volcanic and sedimentary rocks that formed within a submarine island-arc environment (Buesch, 1984, p. 3-5). Following metamorphism, which produced a greenschist facies, these rocks were tilted to the northeast and intruded by a granitic batholith east of the WSAs (Balch, 1981, p. 7).
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> Petrographic examinations indicate that the rocks were originally flows or layers of dacite, rhyolite, latite, andesite, or mudstone (Steven Koehler, 1986, written communication). Layers that contain rock fragments of these compositions are tuffs and

> agglomerates. Identification is difficult as silicification and metamorphism have largely replaced original rock textures or compositions. Finely disseminated pyrite is pervasive throughout most rocks and is considered a primary mineral (Balch, 1981, p. 30).
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> Evidence of mineralization in the WSAs is not obvious. There are no known faults, quartz veins or outcrops of granitic intrusions. The small amounts of gold found in some samples are most likely attributable to postulated gold-bearing extrusive volcanic centers located in the area of workings in O'Neal and Mine Canyons. Layers of rhyolite to dacite that have been silicified and sericitized cover barren, black, flow-banded dacite in both areas.

The following information is paraphrased from the same report.

The earliest mining activity occurred in the Mine Canyon area, adjacent to the east boundary of the Southern Otay Mountain WSA, when gold was discovered in 1877 (Weber, 1963, p. 36). Known as the Dulzura (Oneida) mining district, the main activity occurred in the late 1800's.

The most recent claims in the Southern Otay Mountain WSA are the Bonanza and Silver Queen along the Otay Mountain Truck Trail and the W&T claims in Mine Canyon. These claims were located in 1980 and 1981, respectively. Other claims noted on BLM records which were active for a short time in the early 1980's included the Bug Buster and Mona Lynne in Mine Canyon and the Otay Mining Company, O'Neal No. 1, Continuation, and Ocean View group along the west side of the WSA. Except for an old prospect pit which may have been on the Ocean View claims, two old prospect pits and some gravel piles on the W&T, and a small open cut on the Silver Queen, no workings were found on these recent claims.

No mineral resources were identified in the Southern Otay Mountain WSA. No property in the WSA contained significant gold- or silver-bearing rock and no other metallic or industrial mineral commodities were found. Gold-bearing rocks on the Donohoe Mine property do not appear to extend into the WSA, but rather parallel the border on the east side of Mine Canyon.

No significant sand and gravel deposits were found in the WSA. The deposits are small and scattered along the length of the intermittent stream beds.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Approximately 100 acres (2 percent) of the Otay Mountain Allotment is within the Southern Otay WSA. This allotment includes 5,522 acres for grazing 74 head of cattle during the period between February 1 and April 30 each year, or 222 AUMs.

SOILS AND WATERSHED RESOURCES

Soils are predominantly of the Exchequer-San Miguel association. They are well-drained silt loams interspersed with boulders, over metavolcanic rock on moderately steep to steep slopes. These soils are of relatively low fertility, runoff is rapid and the erosion hazard is high. The most practical means of erosion control is the maintenance of permanent vegetation cover.

AQUIFER USE

Seasonal springs and intermittent streams are few within the area, but are valuable to wildlife and recreational use. The area drains to the Tijuana River and its associated alluvial groundwater basin which extends partially into Mexico. Groundwater supplies within the WSA itself are limited and of insufficient quantities to support extensive development.

Photo 9. Northeast-facing view of southwest aspect of Otay Mountain within Southern Otay Mountain WSA

Photo 10. View from Southern Otay Mountain WSA toward Mexico

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter focuses directly on the issues identified in Chapter 1. For each WSA the environmental impacts of each alternative are described issue by issue. The environmental impacts of these alternatives on the area's other resources have also been analyzed and have been found to be insignificant.

Because of the general nature of this analysis and the lack of numerical and statistical information regarding the area's resources, impacts in this chapter are often expressed in relative terms. For the purpose of this analysis the meanings of these terms are as follows:

- Negligible impact - the degree of anticipated environmental impact is considered less than minor.
- Minor impact - comparatively unimportant; in terms of the area's wildlife resources, a minor impact is one affecting a specific group of individuals of a population in a localized area for one generation or less; the integrity of the regional population is not likely to be affected.
- Moderate impact - an effect sufficient enough to cause a change in the abundance of a resource or its distribution. In terms of the area's wildlife, the abundance or distribution of a portion of the regional or local population would change over more than one generation, but would not affect the integrity of the regional population as a whole.
- Major impact - an effect sufficient enough to cause a decline in the abundance of a resource or a change in distribution of a resource. In terms of the area's wildlife, the abundance or distribution of the regional or local population of a species would decline beyond which natural recruitment would not likely return that population to its former level within several generations.

AGUA TIBIA WSA
(CA-060-002)

PROPOSED ACTION (All Wilderness)

Under the Proposed Action, all 360 acres of the Agua Tibia WSA will be designated wilderness.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to wilderness values.

Impact on Wilderness Values

Under the Proposed Action, all 360 acres of the Agua Tibia WSA will be recommended for wilderness designation and all wilderness values will be protected by legislative mandate. Wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive or unconfined recreation, and special features (native plant communities and excellent scenic views) will be retained.

- Naturalness

  Lands within the WSA will remain closed to ORV use thereby retaining the area's naturalness values. Nonmotorized recreational use is expected to increase from 1,000 to not more than 1,250 visitor days per year. As a result, the perception of naturalness will be slightly diminished especially along the northern boundary of the WSA where most of the use occurs, originating from the adjacent Nature Conservancy and Dorland Preserve properties. Maintenance of a quarter-mile segment of trail which traverses the northern portion of the WSA will result in a moderate reduction of naturalness on a maximum of 2 acres, less than one percent of the WSA.

- Solitude

  The impacts on solitude will basically be the same as those described for naturalness. The closure of the WSA to ORV use will retain solitude. Increased nonmotorized recreational use will diminish the opportunity for solitude for visitors along trails in the northern portion of the WSA. Surface disturbance and noise associated with trail maintenance will reduce solitude on less than one percent of the WSA. The noise portion of the impact from trail maintenance will be present only about 2 days per year.

- Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

  Although no recreational facilities will be developed, primitive or unconfined recreational activities will be retained through the continued closure of the area to ORV use.

- Special Features

  The special features of this WSA are its scenic views and two native California plant communities--the coastal scrub and chaparral. Neither of these special features will be impacted under the Proposed Action, except for a negligible impact on vegetation from trail maintenance and slightly increased visitor use.

Conclusion:

The net effect of the management actions will be the retention and long-term protection of the area's wilderness values resulting primarily from the continued closure of the area to ORV use. In addition, long-term security from unanticipated adverse future actions will be provided. Naturalness and solitude will be reduced by trail maintenance and increased visitor use on less than one percent of the WSA. The special features (scenic views and two native California plant communities) and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation will not be impacted more than negligibly.

Adverse Impacts Which Cannot Be Avoided

Except for the negligible impacts on naturalness described above, there will be no adverse impacts which cannot be avoided.

Relationship Between Local Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity

The management actions under the Proposed Action will not affect any development options that might occur in the future (should Congress decide to reverse a wilderness designation) and long-term productivity will be preserved.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

The Proposed Action involves no irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources.

NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative, none of the entire 360 acres of the Agua Tibia WSA would be designated wilderness.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to wilderness values.

Impact on Wilderness Values

None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation and none of the wilderness values on 360 acres would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. Wilderness values would, however, for the most part, be retained because ORVs would be prohibited under this alternative and the only difference between the management actions under this alternative and the All Wilderness proposal would be a 100-acre prescribed burn every 10 years which would enhance most wilderness values, except in the short term.

- Naturalness

Impacts to naturalness would be the same as described for the Proposed Action, above, except that there would be a temporary destruction of perceived naturalness every 10 years when 100 acres are prescribe burned. Even though fires are natural in this ecosystem, most people perceive a burned-over area as undesirable and unnatural. However, in 2 to 3 years the burned area would return to full perceived naturalness and there would be benefits to naturalness from increased wildlife populations (many species prefer the habitats created by a burn) and maintenance of the area's fire-dependent ecosystem. Also of benefit to the naturalness of the area would be the protection from a catastrophic fire that would be provided, through periodic fuel reduction, by the prescribed burns.

- Solitude

  Impacts to solitude under this alternative would be the same as described for the Proposed Action, above.

- Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

  Impacts to primitive and unconfined recreation would be the same as described for the Proposed Action except that every 10 years and for up to 2 years thereafter, opportunities for camping and hiking would be reduced on the acres (100 acres) that are prescribe burned.

- Special Features

  The special features of this WSA are its scenic views and two native California plant communities. The prescribed burn every 10 years would benefit the scenic views by clearing away brush and, thus, opening up vistas previously blocked. This would last 2 to 4 years until the vegetation grew back. The other special feature--the vegetation communities--would also be impacted positively because they are fire dependent. The fires would be planned to add vigor to the overall condition of the coastal scrub and chaparral communities.

Conclusion:

Impacts under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would be essentially the same as those under the Proposed Action, except that there would not be long-term security from unanticipated future actions and there would be temporary (2 to 4 years) negative impacts to naturalness and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation from the proposed prescribed burning on 100 acres every 10 years. The prescribed burning would also have temporary minor benefits to scenic views and moderate benefit to the coastal scrub and chaparral communities, which are fire dependent.

BEAUTY MOUNTAIN WSA
(CA-060-020G)

PROPOSED ACTION (No Wilderness/No Action)

Under this proposal, none of the entire 11,342 acres of the Beauty Mountain WSA will be designated wilderness.

The primary impacts under this proposal relate to wilderness values and motorized recreational use levels.

Impact on Wilderness Values

None of the WSA will be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation and none of the wilderness values on 11,342 acres will receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. Management actions with the greatest potential for impacting wilderness values under this alternative will be mineral development, ORV use, and prescribed burns.

- Naturalness

The naturalness of the WSA will be reduced by the sights and sounds generated by the anticipated use (500 visitor days per year) of the 3¼ miles of the California Riding and Hiking Trail which traverse the eastern portion of the WSA and the 17 miles of vehicle routes where ORV use will be allowed mostly in the western half of the WSA. This disruption will be temporary (usually less than an hour in duration) but will occur somewhere in the WSA virtually daily, since use occurs throughout the year. Approximately 1,000 acres will be affected by this impact.

There will be a temporary distraction of perceived naturalness every 10 years when 1,000 acres are prescribe burned. Even though fires are natural in this ecosystem, most people perceive a burned-over area as undesirable and unnatural. However, in 2 to 3 years the burned area will return to full perceived naturalness and there will be benefits to naturalness from increased wildlife populations (many species prefer the habitats created by a burn) and maintenance of the area's fire-dependent ecosystem. Also of benefit to the naturalness of the area will be the protection from a catastrophic fire that will be provided, through periodic fuel reduction, by the prescribed burns.

The planned range improvements (1 mile of fence and two spring developments with water troughs) will reduce naturalness on about 10 acres, but the impact will be minor since such improvements have generally proven to have minor impacts on naturalness. Also, the increase in livestock use (30 percent to 200 AUMs) will adversely affect perceived naturalness for those visitors to the area who do not consider livestock and well-utilized forage to be "natural."

Full fire suppression, including the use of mechanized equipment could affect naturalness, the severity of the effect depending on the size and frequency of wildfires and the location of necessary firebreaks.

Probably the largest impact to the naturalness of the area will be the approximately 210 acres of anticipated mineral development (tungsten and perhaps some gold) in the southeastern part of the WSA including 1 mile of new road and 1 mile of upgraded road. Although these disturbed areas will be rehabilitated, evidence of mining will persist over at least 50 years and will be evident from a considerable distance from the site making the total area impacted much larger, probably about 500 acres.

- Solitude

Impacts on opportunities for solitude under this No Wilderness proposal will mirror the impacts on naturalness described above because a feeling of solitude is difficult to achieve in an area where naturalness has been impacted. This is particularly true with regard to the impacts from motorized and nonmotorized recreational use. However, the WSA is large enough that, with the exception of immediately following a prescribed burn of several hundred acres or in the middle of the area of mineral development, the visitor could easily avoid the intrusion and achieve solitude.

- Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

Overall opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation will be affected by the anticipated management actions in a manner similar to the impact on naturalness and solitude. For example, areas where naturalness is reduced will not be suitable for primitive and unconfined recreation. ORV use of the 17 miles of trails within the WSA that will be designated for "limited" ORV use will reduce opportunities for such recreation near the trails, but will increase access to areas that can be reached by foot from the trails. Primitive and unconfined recreation will not be feasible in or adjacent to the mined areas.

- Special Features

The special features of this WSA consist of its outstanding scenic vistas. Prescribed burning of 1,000 acres on a 10-year cycle will temporarily mar certain vistas where they are burned, but within 2 years the vegetation will be back and with the small size burns that are planned they will add to the visually pleasing diversity that contributes to the area's scenic values. Also, the prescribed burning will benefit the scenic views by clearing away brush and, thus, opening up vistas previously blocked. This will last 2 to 4 years until the vegetation grows back.

The land that will be disturbed by mining and related activities (210 acres) is part of some scenic vistas and those will be impaired for up to 50 years. This will involve less than 5 percent of the scenic vistas in the WSA.

Conclusion:

The management actions under the No Wilderness/No Action proposal will have a moderate negative impact on wilderness values in the WSA. Some of the impacts on naturalness--those from motorized and nonmotorized recreationists, range improvements, and fire suppression activities--will affect less than 5 percent of the WSA. However, impacts from increased levels of livestock use will affect major portions of the WSA and be evident to many visitors to the area. Prescribed burning will severely impact up to 1,000 acres (depending on how much is burned in a given year) for about a year, but the area will then recover and perceived naturalness will benefit from increases in vegetation vigor and wildlife. Mining development will have long-term negative impacts on naturalness on up to 500 acres of the WSA.

Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation will mirror the impacts on naturalness because the opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area.

Special features are the scenic views of the WSA. Prescribed burns will open up some vistas and mar some, the impacts being temporary (2 to 4 years). The mineral development anticipated on 210 acres will have a long-term (up to 50 years) impact on less than 5 percent of the vistas from the WSA.

Impact on Upland Game Species

Deer and quail populations will benefit from the proposed prescribed burning (1,000 acres on a rotating basis every 10 years). Such a burn creates, as the vegetation through succession returns to its original condition, improved browse for deer and better habitat (particularly insect availability) for quail. The two water developments will benefit these species and the 2-acre reservoir will benefit the deer, but not the quail because of the probable lack of nearby cover.

These benefits to game will be counterbalanced by the disruption of over 200 acres by mining development. Reclamation of this land will be slow and as a result overall benefits to deer and quail populations under this proposal will be minor.

Conclusion:

Overall, benefits to deer and quail will be minor. Benefits from prescribed burning and water development will be mostly counterbalanced by habitat disturbance from mining.

Impact on Livestock Grazing Operations

Prescribed burning of 1,000 acres on a 10-year cycle and the anticipated range improvements (two spring developments, 2-acre reservoir, 1 mile of fence) will improve the forage utilization efficiencies of the operators and, within 10 years, increase the forage allocation by 30 percent (50 AUMs) to 200 AUMs.

The projected 200 acres of mineral development could reduce forage production, but not more than 2 to 5 AUMs will be lost.

Conclusion:

Forage allocations to livestock will increase by 50 AUMs (30 percent) within 10 years. The forage utilization efficiencies of the operators will increase.

Impact on Motorized Recreational Use Levels

Under the No Wilderness/No Action proposal, motorized recreational use will drop 25 visitor days per year due to the closure of 6 of 25 miles of existing roads. This will put this category of use at 175 visitor days per year, 100 of which will be for hunting. In addition, there will be a small number (less than 10) of such visitor days as a result of the road construction and improvement (2 miles of each) associated with potential mineral development.

Conclusion:

Motorized recreational use will drop about 12 percent to approximately 185 visitor days per year.

Adverse Impacts Which Cannot Be Avoided

The following adverse impacts will be unavoidable: 1) the disruption of naturalness on 200 acres (affecting 500 acres) from mining development, 2) negative impacts to forage production, scenic vistas, and deer and quail habitat from the mining on 200 acres, and 3) temporary loss of scenic values from prescribed burns on 1,000 acres on a 10-year cycle.

Relationship Between Local Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity

For all of the WSA except that part slated for mineral development the management actions under the Proposed Action will not affect any development options that might occur in the future. Long-term productivity will be preserved and should Congress at some later date decide to designate the area as wilderness, the management actions under this No Wilderness proposal will not preclude restoration of the area to true wilderness within a reasonable length of time.

On the 200 acres where mineral development is planned, it is not known whether full biological and scenic productivity could be restored. However, it is estimated that it could be done within 50 years. The mineral productivity, however, (at least those minerals that are actually removed) will be lost permanently.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

The only irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources will be the tungsten and gold that will be removed from the mining site (200 acres).

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative, all 11,342 acres of the Beauty Mountain WSA would be designated wilderness.

The primary impacts under this alternative would relate to wilderness values and motorized recreational use levels.

Consequences

Impact on Wilderness Values

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 11,342 acres of the Beauty Mountain WSA would be recommended for wilderness designation and all wilderness values would be protected by legislative mandate. Wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive or unconfined recreation, and special features (scenic views) would be retained.

- Naturalness

Naturalness would be impaired on less than 3 percent of the WSA. The largest impact would be the approximately 210 acres of anticipated mineral development (tungsten and perhaps some gold) in the southeastern part of the WSA including 1 mile of new road and 1 mile of upgraded road. Although those disturbed areas would be rehabilitated, evidence of mining would persist over at least 50 years and would be evident from a considerable distance from the site making the total area impacted much larger, probably about 500 acres.

The planned range improvements (1 mile of fence and two spring developments with water troughs) would reduce naturalness on about 10 acres, but the impact would be minor since such improvements have generally proven to have minor impacts on naturalness.

Fire suppression, including the use of mechanized equipment could affect naturalness, the severity of the effect being likely to be less than under No Wilderness, but still depending on the size and frequency of wildfires and the location of necessary firebreaks.

Naturalness would be enhanced considerably on about 700 acres by the elimination of vehicular use within the WSA and the restoration (natural and man-assisted) of 17 miles of vehicle routes.

- Solitude

Impacts on opportunities for solitude under the All Wilderness Alternative would be similar to the impacts on naturalness described above because a feeling of solitude is difficult to achieve in an area where naturalness has been impacted.

The elimination of ORV use on 17 miles of vehicle routes would enhance opportunities for solitude for those who were able to hike into the area. However, for those unable to hike in, opportunities for solitude would be reduced because it previously could be achieved by hiking a short distance (several hundred yards) from the vehicle routes.

- Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

Impacts on opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation would be similar to that described for the Proposed Action on page 102, except that the elimination of ORV use under this alternative would result in a minor reduction of such opportunities because recreationists would have to hike to their destinations (and, thus, in many cases, would not go).

- Special Features

  The special features of this WSA (its outstanding scenic views) would be impacted by the proposed mining operations as described for the Proposed Action on page 102. None of the other management actions would impact the scenic views more than negligibly.

Conclusion:

Wilderness values would be retained on more than 95 percent of the WSA. While the elimination of ORV use would improve naturalness on about 700 acres, mining development would have long-term negative impacts on naturalness on up to 500 acres. Impacts on naturalness from range improvements and fire suppression activities would be minor.

Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would be similar to the impacts on naturalness because those opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area.

The special features of the WSA are its outstanding vistas. They would be unaffected under this alternative except for the long-term (up to 50 years) impairment of less than 5 percent of them by the anticipated mineral development.

Impact on Upland Game Species

Impacts on deer and quail populations under the All Wilderness Alternative would be the same as described for the Proposed Action on page 103, with the major exception that, since there would be no prescribed burning, there would, overall, be a minor decrease in both populations. This would be true despite the fact that both species would benefit from the elimination of ORV use and the attendant reduction in hunter access.

Conclusion:

There would be a minor reduction in deer and quail populations. Benefits from water developments and the elimination of ORVs would be more than counterbalanced by habitat disturbance from mining.

Impact on Livestock Grazing Operations

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, the anticipated range improvements (two spring developments, 2-acre reservoir, 1 mile of fence) would improve the forage utilization efficiencies of the operators. Forage utilization would remain at about 150 AUMs within the WSA (there would be no prescribed burning) despite some loss of forage availability from the 200 acres of projected mineral development.

Conclusion:

Forage allocations to livestock would remain at 150 AUMs.

Impact on Motorized Recreational Use Levels

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, the entire WSA would be closed to vehicular use. This would result in the loss or displacement of 185 visitor days per year.

Conclusion:

There would be no motorized recreational use within the WSA.

PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative, 6,190 acres of the Beauty Mountain WSA would be designated wilderness; 5,152 acres would not be designated wilderness, but managed for multiple use.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to wilderness values and motorized recreational use levels.

Impact on Wilderness Values

Wilderness values on 6,190 acres of the WSA would be protected by legislative mandate while 5,152 acres would not receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation.

- Naturalness

  Impacts on naturalness under the Partial Wilderness Alternative would be as described for the All Wilderness Alternative on page 105, except that about half of the WSA would have full fire suppression (and thus be more likely to have naturalness-disrupting impacts) and only about 75 percent of the vehicular use would be eliminated (and thus naturalness would be enhanced on only about 650 acres by the elimination of ORV use and the rehabilitation of 10 miles of vehicle routes).

- Solitude

  Impacts on opportunities for solitude under the Partial Wilderness Alternative would be the same as described for the All Wilderness Alternative on page 105, except that only about 75 percent of the ORV use would be eliminated under this (Partial Wilderness) alternative.

- Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

  Impacts on opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation under the Partial Wilderness Alternative would be the same as described for the All Wilderness Alternative on page 105, except that only about 75 percent of the ORV use would be eliminated under this (Partial Wilderness) alternative.

- Special Features

  The special features of this WSA (its outstanding scenic vistas) would be impacted as described for the All Wilderness Alternative on page 106.

Conclusion:

Wilderness values would be retained on more than 95 percent of the WSA and would be impacted the same as under the All Wilderness Alternative, except that only about 75 percent of the ORV use would be eliminated.

Impact on Upland Game Species

Impacts on deer and quail populations under the Partial Wilderness Alternative would be the same as described for the All Wilderness Alternative, except that the benefit from ORV use elimination would not be as great because under this alternative only about 75 percent of the ORV use and attendant hunting would be eliminated. Nevertheless, there would still only be a minor reduction in deer and quail populations under this alternative.

Conclusion:

The impacts would be essentially the same as under the All Wilderness Alternative.

Impact on Livestock Grazing Operations

Impacts on livestock grazing operations under the Partial Wilderness Alternative would be the same as those described for the All Wilderness Alternative on page 106.

Conclusion:

Impacts would be the same as under the All Wilderness Alternative.

Impact on Motorized Recreational Use Levels

Under the Partial Wilderness Alternative, 7 miles of vehicle routes would remain open for "limited" ORV use, the remaining 16 miles of such routes would be closed. As a result motorized recreational use would drop from 200 visitor days annually to slightly over 50 visitor days, about half of which would be for hunting.

Conclusion:

Motorized recreational use would drop about 75 percent to slightly more than 50 visitor days per year.

HAUSER MOUNTAIN WSA
(CA-060-027C)

PROPOSED ACTION (NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION)

Under this proposal, none of the 5,489 acres of the Hauser Mountain WSA will be designated wilderness.

The primary impacts under this proposal relate to wilderness values and sensitive plant species.

Impact on Wilderness Values

None of the WSA will be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation and none of the wilderness values on 5,489 acres will receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. Management actions with the greatest potential for impacting wilderness values under this alternative will be prescribed burning, ORV use, and increased livestock grazing.

- Naturalness

The naturalness of the WSA will be temporarily reduced by the sights and sounds generated by the anticipated use (1,000 visitor days per year) of the 4¼ miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail which traverse the northeastern portion of the WSA and the 4 miles of vehicle trails where ORV use will be allowed in the western half of the WSA. This disruption will be temporary (usually less than an hour in duration) but will occur somewhere in the WSA virtually daily, since use occurs throughout the year. Approximately 200 acres will be affected by this impact.

There will be a temporary distraction of perceived naturalness every 10 years when 1,000 acres are prescribe burned. Even though fires are natural in this ecosystem, most people perceive a burned-over area as undesirable and unnatural. However, in 2 to 3 years the burned area will return to full perceived naturalness and there will be benefits to naturalness from increased wildlife populations (many species prefer the habitats created by a burn) and maintenance of the area's fire-dependent ecosystem. Also of benefit to the naturalness of the area will be the protection from a catastrophic fire that will be provided, through periodic fuel reduction, by the prescribed burns.

The planned range improvements (1 mile of fence and spring development with water trough) will reduce naturalness on about 10 acres, but the impact will be minor since such improvements have generally proven to have minor impacts on naturalness in the WSA. Also, the increase in livestock use (300 percent to 500 AUMs) will adversely affect perceived naturalness for those visitors to the area who do not consider livestock and well-utilized forage to be "natural."

Full fire suppression, including the use of mechanized equipment could affect naturalness, the severity of the effect depending on the size and frequency of wildfires and the location of necessary firebreaks.

- Solitude

Impacts on opportunities for solitude under this No Wilderness proposal will mirror the impacts on naturalness described above because a feeling of solitude is difficult to achieve in an area where naturalness has been impacted. This is particularly true with regard to the impacts from motorized and nonmotorized recreational use. However, the WSA is large enough that, with the exception of immediately following a prescribed burn of several hundred acres, the visitor could easily avoid the intrusion and achieve solitude.

- Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

Overall opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation will be affected by the anticipated management actions in a manner similar to the impact on naturalness. For example, areas where naturalness is reduced will not be suitable for primitive and unconfined recreation. ORV use of the 4 miles of trails within the portion of the WSA that will be designated for "limited" ORV use will reduce opportunities for such recreation near the trails, but will increase access to areas that can be reached by foot from the trails.

- Special Features

The special features of the Hauser Mountain WSA are 1) its scenic views of natural vegetation communities and nearby Morena Butte and 2) the rare ("sensitive") plant, Hemizonia floribunda. The periodic burns will benefit scenic views by clearing away brush and, thus, opening up vistas previously blocked. This will last 2 to 4 years until the vegetation grows back. In some cases, however, the burns will temporarily destroy the beauty of a vista. This effect will only last about 2 years by which time vegetation will have succeeded sufficiently to restore the visual beauty.

Impacts on Hemizonia floribunda are described on page 111.

Conclusion:

The management actions under the No Wilderness/No Action proposal will have a moderate negative impact on wilderness values in the WSA. Some of the impacts on naturalness--those from motorized and nonmotorized recreationists, range improvements, and fire suppression activities--will affect less than 5 percent of the WSA. However, impacts from greatly increased levels of livestock use will affect major portions of the WSA and be evident to many visitors to the area. Prescribed burning will severely impact up to 1,000 acres (depending on how much is burned in a given year) for about a year, but the area will then recover and perceived naturalness will benefit from increases in vegetation vigor and wildlife.

Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation will mirror the impacts on naturalness because the opportunities depend on the naturalness of a given area.

Special features are the scenic views and the sensitive plant, Hemizonia floribunda. Prescribed burns will open up some vistas and mar some, the impacts being temporary (2 to 4 years). Hemizonia floribunda will receive adverse impacts from livestock grazing and recreationists; these impacts will be counterbalanced by the beneficial effect of prescribed burning.

Impact on Sensitive Plant Species

Since the sensitive plant species that is believed to occur within the WSA (Hemizonia floribunda--Tecate tarweed) is unlikely to be adversely affected by such soil-disturbing activities as road cuts and firebreaks and it responds favorably to fire, the management actions under this proposal (see page 32) are predicted to have a no measurable impact on this species. Possible adverse impacts to the species from the projected 500-AUM increase in livestock grazing and projected levels of motorized and nonmotorized recreational use (300 and 400 visitor days per year, respectively) could result in the destruction of individual plants. However, the species will benefit slightly from the prescribed burn, the net effect being no impact.

Conclusion:

Hemizonia floribunda will receive minor adverse impacts from livestock grazing and recreational use; these impacts will be counterbalanced by the beneficial effect of prescribed burning.

Impact on Livestock Grazing Operations

Livestock grazing operations will benefit from the grazing management actions described on page 35, the result being to increase forage allocations to livestock by 500 AUMs (300 percent) within 15 years. All of this increase will come from the prescribed burning. The fence and water trough will improve the ability of the operators to utilize available forage.

Conclusion:

Forage allocations to livestock will increase by 500 AUMs (300 percent) within 15 years. The forage utilization efficiencies of the operators will increase.

Adverse Impacts Which Cannot Be Avoided

Assuming that all of the management actions will be implemented, the following adverse impacts will be unavoidable: individual Hemizonia floribunda plants will be damaged or destroyed by livestock and recreationists, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive or unconfined recreation will be reduced on over 200 acres (less than 5 percent of the WSA) by motorized and nonmotorized recreational use and range improvements. Prescribed burning and/or increased livestock use will have less intense adverse impacts on naturalness over most of the WSA.

Relationship Between Local Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity

The management actions under the Proposed Action will not affect any development options that might occur in the future. Long-term productivity will be preserved and should Congress at some later date decide to designate the area as wilderness, the management actions under this No Wilderness proposal will not preclude restoration of the area to true wilderness within a reasonable length of time.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

The Proposed Action involves no irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative, all 5,489 acres of the Hauser Mountain WSA would be designated wilderness.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to wilderness values and sensitive plant species.

Impact on Wilderness Values

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 5,489 acres of the Hauser Mountain WSA would be recommended for wilderness designation and all wilderness values would be protected by legislative mandate. Wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive or unconfined recreation, and special features (the rare plant Hemizonia floribunda and excellent scenic views) would be retained.

- Naturalness

  Naturalness would be generally well preserved under the alternative, the major impacting actions of the Proposed Action (prescribed burning, ORV use, and increased livestock grazing) being absent. Remaining impacts would be the sights and sounds generated by the anticipated use of the Pacific Crest Trail (affecting about 100 acres), the planned range improvements (affecting about 10 acres), and fire suppression activities as described on page 36, the latter being somewhat less because of the probable more sparing use of heavy equipment in a wilderness area.

- Solitude

  Impacts on opportunities for solitude would be similar to those described for naturalness, above. A feeling of solitude is difficult to achieve in an area where naturalness has been impacted. Of particular benefit to opportunities for solitude under this alternative is the elimination of ORV use in the western half of the WSA.

- Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

  The management actions under this alternative would not affect opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, except for the relatively minor impacts on naturalness described above which, in the particular locations affected, render that part of the area unsuitable for this type of recreation.

- Special Features

  Scenic views would be unaffected under this alternative because there would be no prescribed burning. There would also be no net impact on the rare plant, Hemizonia floribunda (see page 36).

Conclusion:

Wilderness values would be retained under this alternative. Naturalness would receive minor adverse impacts on about 110 acres from visitor use along the Pacific Crest Trail and from range improvements and fire suppression activities. Opportunities for solitude and primitive or unconfined recreation would receive negligible adverse impacts from the same sources. There would be no net impact on the special features of the WSA (scenic vistas and the sensitive plant, Hemizonia floribunda) under this alternative.

Impact on Sensitive Plant Species

Net impacts on Hemizonia floribunda would be similar to those described under the Proposed Action on page 111, but overall impacts would be greatly reduced in scope because there would be no prescribed burning and no increase in livestock grazing under the All Wilderness Alternative. It would also benefit from the elimination of ORVs from the WSA and the rehabilitation of the 4 miles of roads that would be closed to motorized recreational use. Minor impacts from projected visitor use levels (1,000 visitor days per year) and existing grazing levels would be counterbalanced by benefits from the road rehabilitation and other sites of minor surface disturbances such as that associated with the range improvements.

Conclusion:

Impacts on Hemizonia floribunda (both positive and negative) would be much less than under the Proposed Action, the net result being the same: no overall impact.

Impact on Livestock Grazing Operations

Livestock grazing operations would be impacted the same as under the Proposed Action, except that, because there would be no prescribed burning, there would be no increase in forage allocations above present levels (approximately 166 AUMs within the WSA).

Conclusion:

The forage utilization efficiencies of the operators would increase, but forage allocations to livestock would remain at about 166 AUMs within the WSA.

WESTERN OTAY MOUNTAIN
(CA-060-028)

PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL WILDERNESS)

Under the Proposed Action, 4,110 acres of the Western Otay Mountain WSA will be designated wilderness; 1,640 acres will not be designated, but managed for multiple use.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to wilderness values and sensitive plant species.

Impact on Wilderness Values

Wilderness values on 4,110 acres of the WSA will be protected by legislative mandate while 1,640 acres will not receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation.

- Naturalness

  The naturalness of the WSA will be reduced by the sights and sounds generated by the continued ORV use (25 visitor days per year) along the Little Cedar Truck Trail. This periodic, temporary disruption will affect about 200 acres.

  Fire suppression actions will impact naturalness adversely on an acreage that will depend on the number and location of fires and how much heavy equipment it is necessary to use. Heavy equipment will be less likely to be used in the area recommended suitable than in the nonsuitable area.

  The planned range improvements--1 mile of fence and a spring development with water trough--will reduce naturalness on about 10 acres, but the impact will be minor since such improvements have generally proven to have minor impacts on naturalness.

- Solitude

  Impacts on opportunities for solitude under this Partial Wilderness Proposal will mirror the impacts on naturalness described above because a feeling of solitude is difficult to achieve in an area where naturalness has been impacted. This is particularly true with regard to the impacts from motorized recreational use. The anticipated level of nonmotorized recreational use (750 visitor days per year) will also disrupt opportunities for solitude. This use will be scattered throughout much of the WSA. However, the WSA is large enough that the visitor can easily avoid these intrusions and achieve solitude.

- Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

Overall opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation will be affected by the anticipated management actions in a manner similar to the impact on naturalness and solitude. For example, areas where naturalness is reduced will not be suitable for primitive or unconfined recreation. The 25 visitor days per year of ORV use will reduce opportunities for such recreation near the trails, but will increase access to areas that can be reached by foot from the trails.

- Special Features

The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species. Impacts on these plants will be as described below.

Conclusion:

The management actions under the Partial Wilderness Proposal will have a minor negative impact on wilderness values in the WSA. Naturalness will be temporarily disrupted by ORV use on less than 5 percent of the WSA and be more permanently impacted on less than 1 percent of the WSA by range improvements and fire suppression activities.

Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation will be similar to the impacts on naturalness because those opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area.

The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species which will be impacted negligibly. Minor negative impacts from fire suppression activities and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use will be counterbalanced by minor benefits from the acquisition of 280 acres.

Impact on Sensitive Plant Species

Under the Proposed Action, impacts to sensitive plant species will be negligible. The biggest threats to individual plants will come from fire suppression activities and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use. However, any impacts from these sources will be negligible because of the small geographic area affected (less than 1 percent of the WSA), and the fact that plant surveys will be conducted before any surface disturbance occurs so that sensitive plants can be avoided. Although plants may be crushed or picked by visitors to the area, virtually all such damage will be accidental. No commercial use (legal or illegal) of the plants is anticipated.

The planned acquisition of 280 acres within the WSA will be of minor benefit to the sensitive plants. It will assure that land-disturbing actions on those lands will, as on the rest of the WSA, be preceded by surveys aimed at identifying and protecting (through avoidance and other mitigation techniques) any sensitive plants. However, significant impacts to sensitive plants are not anticipated under the current private ownership of these lands.

Conclusion:

Impacts on sensitive plant species will be negligible. Minor negative impacts from fire suppression activities and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use will be counterbalanced by minor benefits from the acquisition of 280 acres.

Impacts on Least Bell's Vireo Habitat

Under the Proposed Action, impacts on Least Bell's Vireo habitat will be negligible. The habitat in question is quite remote and unlikely to be impacted by motorized or nonmotorized recreational uses. Use of the area by livestock is currently light and because of possible impacts to the Vireo, required mitigations will keep any surface-disturbing activities away from this habitat.

Conclusion:

Impacts on Least Bell's Vireo habitat will be negligible. Recreational and livestock use of the habitat is light; required mitigations will prevent surface-disturbing activities.

Impacts on Livestock Grazing Operations

Under the Partial Wilderness Alternative, the anticipated range improvements (one spring development and 1 mile of fence) will improve the forage utilization efficiencies of the operators. Forage utilization will remain at about 222 AUMs within the WSA (there will be no prescribed burning).

Conclusion:

Forage allocations to livestock will remain at 222 AUMs.

Adverse Impacts Which Cannot Be Avoided

The following adverse impacts will be unavoidable: (1) a minor loss of individual sensitive plants from motorized and nonmotorized recreational use and fire suppression activities and (2) a minor loss of naturalness and opportunities for solitude from motorized and nonmotorized recreational use (25 and 750 visitor days per year, respectively).

Relationship Between Local Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity

The management actions under the Proposed Action will not affect any development options that might occur in the future. Long-term productivity will be preserved and should Congress at some later date decide to designate the area as wilderness, the management actions under this Partial Wilderness Proposal will not preclude restoration of the area to true wilderness within a reasonable length of time.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

The Proposed Action does not involve any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative, all 5,750 acres of the Western Otay Mountain WSA would be designated wilderness.

The primary impacts under this alternative would relate to wilderness values and sensitive plant species.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 5,750 acres of the Western Otay Mountain WSA would be recommended for wilderness designation and all wilderness values would be protected by legislative mandate. Wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive or unconfined recreation, and special features (the sensitive plant species) would be retained.

- Naturalness

  Impacts on naturalness under the All Wilderness Alternative would be as described for the Proposed Action on page 114, except that there would be no impacts from motorized recreational use and the use of heavy equipment for fire suppression (all the resultant disturbances) would be restricted (but not prohibited) on the entire WSA.

- Solitude

  Impacts on opportunities for solitude under the All Wilderness Alternative would be similar to the impacts on naturalness described above because a feeling of solitude is difficult to achieve in an area where naturalness has been impacted.

  The elimination of 25 visitor days per year of ORV use would enhance opportunities for solitude for those who were able to hike into the area. However, for those unable to hike in, opportunities for solitude would be reduced because it previously could be achieved by hiking a short distance (several hundred yards) from the vehicle routes.

- Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

  Impacts on opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation under the All Wilderness Alternative would be similar to those described for the Proposed Action on page 115, except that the elimination of ORV use under this alternative would result in a minor reduction of such opportunities because recreationists would have to hike to their destinations (and, thus, in some cases, would not go).

- Special Features

  The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species. Impacts on these plants would be as described below.

Conclusion:

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, impacts to wilderness values would be negligible. They would be similar to those described for the Partial Wilderness Proposal, but they would be less because there would be no ORV use and the potential disturbance from fire suppression activities would be less.

Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive or unconfined recreation would be similar to the impacts on naturalness because those opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area.

The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species which would be impacted negligibly. Minor negative impacts from fire suppression activities and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use would be counterbalanced by minor benefits from the acquisition of 280 acres.

Impact on Sensitive Plant Species

Impacts on sensitive plant species under the All Wilderness Alternative would be the same as described for the Proposed Action on page 115, except that there would be no adverse impacts from motorized recreational use (25 visitor days per year would be eliminated).

Conclusion:

Negative impacts would be slightly less than under the Proposed Action because of the elimination of 25 visitor days per year of motorized recreational use.

Impact on Least Bell's Vireo Habitat

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, impacts on Least Bell's Vireo habitat would be the same as described for the Proposed Action page 116, except that there would be no impacts from motorized recreational use.

Conclusion:

Impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Action.

Impacts on Livestock Grazing Operations

Impacts on livestock grazing operations under the All Wilderness Alternative would be the same as described for the Proposed Action on page 116.

Conclusion:

The impacts would be the same as under the Proposed Action.

NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative, none of the entire 5,750 acres of the Western Otay Mountain WSA would be designated wilderness.

The primary impacts under this proposal relate to wilderness values and sensitive plant species.

Impact on Wilderness Values

None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation and none of the wilderness values on 5,750 acres would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The management action with the greatest potential for impacting wilderness values under this alternative would be prescribed burning. There would be a temporary disturbance of perceived naturalness every 10 years when 1,000 acres are prescribed burned. Even though fires are natural in this ecosystem, most people perceive a burned-over area as undesirable and unnatural. However, in 2 to 3 years the burned areas would return to full perceived naturalness and there would be benefits to naturalness from increased wildlife populations (many species prefer the habitats created by a fire) and maintenance of the area's fire-dependent ecosystem. Also of benefit to the naturalness of the area would be the protection from a catastrophic fire that would be provided through periodic fuel reduction by the prescribed burns.

- Naturalness

The increase in livestock use (90 percent to about 420 AUMs) would adversely affect perceived naturalness for those visitors to the area who do not consider livestock and well-utilized forage to be "natural."

Other than the above, impacts on naturalness under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would be the same as described for the Proposed Action on page 114, except that fire suppression activities would include the use of heavy equipment without the restrictions placed on its use in wilderness areas.

- Solitude

Impacts on opportunities for solitude under this No Wilderness Alternative would mirror the impacts on naturalness described above because a feeling of solitude is difficult to achieve in an area where naturalness has been impacted. This is particularly true with regard to the impacts from motorized recreational use. However, the WSA is so large that, with the exception of immediately following a prescribed burn of several hundred acres, the visitor could easily avoid the intrusion and achieve solitude.

- Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

  Impacts on opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would be similar to that described for the Proposed Action on page 115, expect that in the case of this alternative impacts on naturalness (see above) include some extensive (several hundred acres at a time) prescribed burning which, on those specific areas burned, would temporarily make the area unsatisfactory for primitive and unconfined recreation.

- Special Features

  The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species. Impacts on these plants will be as described below.

Conclusion:

Impacts to wilderness values under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would be similar to those for the Partial Wilderness Proposal, except that they would be somewhat greater (although still minor) because of the temporary visual impact on naturalness from prescribed burning of 1,000 acres on a 10-year cycle (including the impact of the resultant increase in livestock use of the WSA) and the increased potential for the use of heavy equipment for fire suppression activities.

Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive or unconfined recreation would be similar to the impacts on naturalness because those opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area. The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species which would receive minor impacts from prescribed burning, increased livestock use, and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use.

Impact on Sensitive Plant Species

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative, minor impacts on sensitive plant species are anticipated. The reason greater impacts on sensitive plants are predicted under this alternative than under the other two alternatives (see pages 115 and 118) is that (1) there would be no private land acquisition under this alternative, eliminating the possible added protection plants on those lands would have received, (2) there would be 1,000 acres of prescribed burning on a 10-year cycle under this alternative (although the burning would be conducted to minimize impacts to sensitive plants as indicated in Chapter 2, it is likely there would be some adverse impact), and (3) the increase in livestock use of the WSA (90 percent to about 420 AUMs) could be a threat to some of the sensitive species, if they are highly preferred by livestock.

Conclusion:

Impacts on sensitive plant species would be minor, but greater than under the other two alternatives because of potential impacts from prescribed burning, increased livestock use, and the fact that there would be no land acquisition.

Impacts on Least Bell's Vireo Habitat

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative, impacts on Least Bell's Vireo habitat would be minor. They would be similar in nature to those described for the Proposed Action on page 116, but the fact that within 10 years overall livestock forage allocation on the WSA would increase 90 percent (see below) is predicted to result in at least a minor adverse impact on this habitat. There would be no impact on this habitat from prescribed burning because the burns would be conducted to avoid all potential Least Bell's Vireo habitat.

Conclusion:

Impact on Least Bell's Vireo habitat would be minor, but greater than under the other two alternatives because of potential impact from increased livestock grazing.

Impacts on Livestock Grazing Operations

Prescribed burning of 1,000 acres on a 10-year cycle and the anticipated range improvements (one spring development and 1 mile of fence) would improve the forage utilization efficiency of the operators and, within 10 years, increase the forage allocation by about 90 percent (200 AUMs) to about 420 AUMs.

Conclusion:

Forage allocations to livestock would increase by 200 AUMs (90 percent) to about 420 AUMs within 10 years.

SOUTHERN OTAY MOUNTAIN WSA
(CA-060-029)

PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL WILDERNESS)

Under the Proposed Action, 6,980 acres of the Southern Otay Mountain WSA will be designated wilderness; 960 acres will not be designated, but managed for multiple use.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to wilderness values and sensitive plant species.

Impact on Wilderness Values

Wilderness values on 6,980 acres of the WSA will be protected by legislative mandate while 960 acres will not receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation.

- Naturalness

The naturalness of the WSA will be reduced by the sights and sounds generated by the continued ORV use (100 visitor days per year) along the 1 mile of vehicle routes in the nonsuitable portion of the WSA. This periodic, temporary disruption will affect about 200 acres.

Fire suppression actions will impact naturalness adversely on an acreage that will depend on the number and location of fires and how much heavy equipment it is necessary to use. Heavy equipment will be less likely to be used in the area recommended suitable than in the nonsuitable area.

The proposed spring development will reduce naturalness on about 1 acre, but even on that acre the impact will be minor because the development will be designed to blend in with the surrounding terrain.

- Solitude

Impacts on opportunities for solitude under this Partial Wilderness Proposal will mirror the impacts on naturalness described above because a feeling of solitude is difficult to achieve in an area where naturalness has been impacted. This is particularly true with regard to the impacts from motorized recreational use. The anticipated level of nonmotorized recreational use (750 visitor days per year) will also disrupt opportunities for solitude. This use will be scattered throughout much of the WSA. However, the WSA is large enough that the visitor can easily avoid these intrusions and achieve solitude.

- Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

Overall opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation will be affected by the anticipated management actions in a manner similar to the impact on naturalness and solitude. For example, areas where naturalness is reduced will not be suitable for primitive or unconfined recreation. The 100 visitor days per year of ORV use will reduce opportunities for such recreation near the trails, but will increase access to areas that can be reached by foot from the trails.

- Special Features

The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species. Impacts on these plants will be as described on page 123.

Conclusion:

The management actions under the Partial Wilderness Proposal will have a minor negative impact on wilderness values in the WSA. Naturalness will be temporarily disrupted by ORV use on less than 5 percent of the WSA and be more permanently impacted on less than 1 percent of the WSA by range improvements and fire suppression activities.

Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive or unconfined recreation will be similar to the impacts on naturalness because those opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area.

The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species which will be impacted negligibly. Minor negative impacts from fire suppression activities and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use will be counterbalanced by minor benefits from the acquisition of 480 acres.

Impact on Sensitive Plant Species

Under the Proposed Action, impacts to sensitive plant species will be negligible. The biggest threats to individual plants will come from fire suppression activities and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use. However, any impacts from these sources or the proposed spring development would be negligible because of the small geographic area affected (less than 1 percent of the WSA), and the fact that plant surveys will be conducted before any surface disturbance occurs so that sensitive plants can be avoided. Although plants may be crushed or picked by visitors to the area, virtually all such damage will be accidental. No commercial use (legal or illegal) of the plants is anticipated.

The planned acquisition of 480 acres within the WSA will be of minor benefit to the sensitive plants. It will assure that land-disturbing actions on those lands will, as on the rest of the WSA, be preceded by surveys aimed at identifying and protecting (through avoidance and other mitigation techniques) any sensitive plants. However, significant impacts to sensitive plants are not anticipated under the current private ownership of these lands.

Conclusion:

Impacts on sensitive plant species will be negligible. Minor negative impacts from fire suppression activities and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use will be counterbalanced by minor benefits from the acquisition of 480 acres.

Adverse Impacts Which Cannot Be Avoided

The following adverse impacts will be unavoidable: (1) a minor loss of individual sensitive plants from motorized and nonmotorized recreational use and fire suppression activities and (2) a minor loss of naturalness and opportunities for solitude from motorized and nonmotorized recreational use (100 and 750 visitor days per year, respectively).

Relationship Between Local Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity

The management actions under the Proposed Action will not affect any development options that might occur in the future. Long-term productivity will be preserved and should Congress at some later date decide to designate the area as wilderness, the management actions under this Partial Wilderness Proposal will not preclude restoration of the area to true wilderness within a reasonable length of time.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

The Proposed Action does not involve any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative, all 7,940 acres of the Southern Otay Mountain WSA would be designated wilderness.

The primary impacts under this alternative would relate to wilderness values and sensitive plant species.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 7,940 acres of the Southern Otay Mountain WSA would be recommended for wilderness designation and all wilderness values would be protected by legislative mandate. Wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive or unconfined recreation, and special features (the sensitive plant species) would be retained.

- Naturalness

  Impacts on naturalness under the All Wilderness Alternative would be as described for the Proposed Action on page 122, except that there would be no impacts from motorized recreational use and the use of heavy equipment for fire suppression (all the resultant disturbances) would be restricted (but not prohibited) on the entire WSA.

- Solitude

  Impacts on opportunities for solitude under All Wilderness Alternative would be similar to the impacts on naturalness described above because a feeling of solitude is difficult to achieve in an area where naturalness has been impacted.

  The elimination of 100 visitor days per year of ORV use would enhance opportunities for solitude for those who were able to hike into the area. However, for those unable to hike in, opportunities for solitude would be reduced because it previously could be achieved by hiking a short distance (several hundred yards) from the vehicle routes.

- Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

  Impacts on opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation under the All Wilderness Alternative would similar to that described for the Proposed Action on page 122, except that the elimination of ORV use under this alterative would result in a minor reduction of such opportunities because recreationists would have to hike to their destinations (and, thus, in some cases, would not go).

- Special Features

  The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species. Impacts on these plants would be as described below.

Conclusion:

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, impacts to wilderness values would be negligible. They would be similar to those described for the Partial Wilderness Proposal, but they would be less because there would be no ORV use and the potential disturbance from fire suppression activities would be less.

Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive or unconfined recreation would be similar to the impacts on naturalness because those opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area.

The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species which would be impacted negligibly. Minor negative impacts from fire suppression activities and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use would be counterbalanced by minor benefits from the acquisition of 480 acres.

Impact on Sensitive Plant Species

Impacts on sensitive plant species under the All Wilderness Alternative would be the same as described for the Proposed Action on page 123, except that there would be no adverse impacts from motorized recreational use (100 visitor days per year would be eliminated).

Conclusion:

Negative impacts would be slightly less than under the Proposed Action because of the elimination of 100 visitor days per year of motorized recreational use.

NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative, none of the entire 7,940 acres of the Southern Otay Mountain WSA would be designated wilderness.

The primary impacts under this proposal relate to wilderness values and sensitive plant species.

Impact on Wilderness Values

None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation and none of the wilderness values on 7,940 acres would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. Management actions with the greatest potential for impacting wilderness values under this alternative would be prescribed burning and ORV use. There would be a temporary disturbance of perceived naturalness every 10 years when 1,000 acres are prescribed burned. Even though fires are natural in this ecosystem, most people perceive a burned-over area as undesirable and unnatural. However, in 2 to 3 years the burned areas would return to full perceived naturalness and there would be benefits to naturalness from increased wildlife populations (many species prefer the habitats created by a fire) and maintenance of the area's fire-dependent ecosystem. Also of benefit to the naturalness of the area would be the protection from a catastrophic fire that would be provided through periodic fuel reduction by the prescribed burns.

- Naturalness

  The increase in livestock use (90 percent to about 420 AUMs) would adversely affect perceived naturalness for those visitors to the area who do not consider livestock and well-utilized forage to be "natural."

  Other than the above, impacts on naturalness under the No Wilderness/ No Action Alternative would be the same as described for the Proposed Action on page 122, except that fire suppression activities would include the use of heavy equipment without the restrictions placed on its use in wilderness areas.

- Solitude

  Impacts on opportunities for solitude under this No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would mirror the impacts on naturalness described above because a feeling of solitude is difficult to achieve in an area where naturalness has been impacted. This is particularly true with regard to the impacts from motorized recreational use. However, the WSA is large enough that, with the exception of immediately following a prescribed burn of several hundred acres, the visitor could easily avoid the intrusion and achieve solitude.

- Primitive or Unconfined Recreation

  Impacts on opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would be similar to that described for the Proposed Action on page 122, expect that in the case of this alternative impacts on naturalness (see above) include some extensive (several hundred acres at a time) prescribed burning which, on those specific areas burned, would temporarily make the area unsatisfactory for primitive or unconfined recreation.

- Special Features

  The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species. Impacts on these plants will be as described on page 127.

Conclusion:

Impacts to wilderness values under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would be similar to those for the Partial Wilderness Proposal, except that they would be somewhat greater (although still minor) because of the temporary visual impact on naturalness from prescribed burning of 1,000 acres on a 10-year cycle (including the impact of the resultant increase in livestock use of the WSA) and the increased potential for the use of heavy equipment for fire suppression activities.

Consequences

Impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive or unconfined recreation would be similar to the impacts on naturalness because those opportunities depend to a large degree on the naturalness of a given area. The special features of this WSA are its sensitive plant species which would receive minor impacts from prescribed burning and motorized and nonmotorized recreational use.

Impact on Sensitive Plant Species

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative, minor impacts on sensitive plant species are anticipated. The reason greater impacts on sensitive plants are predicted under this alternative than under the other two alternatives (see pages 123 and 125) is that (1) there would be no private land acquisition under this alternative, eliminating the possible added protection plants on those lands would have received, (2) there would be 1,000 acres of prescribed burning on a 10-year cycle under this alternative (although the burning would be conducted to minimize impacts to sensitive plants as indicated in Chapter 2, it is likely there would be some adverse impact), and (3) the increase in livestock use of the WSA (90 percent to about 420 AUMs) could be a threat to some of the sensitive species, if they are highly preferred by livestock.

Conclusion:

Impacts on sensitive plant species would be minor, but greater than under the other two alternatives because of potential impacts from prescribed burning, increased livestock use, and the fact that there would be no land acquisition.

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION & COORDINATION

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Consultation and coordination is discussed in detail under "SCOPING" on pages 3-5. Additional coordination occurred on May 6, 1986, when BLM sent a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding Section 7 consultation. Their response indicates that formal consultation with them is not necessary on the question of wilderness designation or nondesignation (see Appendix B).

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIS

During the review of the (1982 Draft EIS), 31 letters were received from Federal, State and local agencies and private organizations. A public hearing was held in Escondido, California, on July 7, 1982. The results of that hearing, the 31 letters received, and the responses made to those letters are in the Supplemental Draft EIS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT EIS

The Western Counties Supplemental Draft EIS was released for a 90-day public review on June 8, 1984. Fifty-nine agencies, organizations, and individuals responded. These letters are reprinted on the following pages, together with responses to comments made on specific technical inadequacies in the EIS. A list of those who commented is provided below. Comment numbers were assigned in the order that each letter was received by BLM.

INDEX OF WRITTEN COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Federal Agencies

Letter No. 19 - Cleveland National Forest
Letter No. 48 - Environmental Protection Agency
Letter No. 56 - Fish and Wildlife Service
Letter No. 7 - National Park Service
Letter No. 59 - Soil Conservation Service

State Agencies

Letter No. 13 - California Department of Parks and Recreation
Letter No. 2 - California State Clearinghouse
Letter No. 10 - Governor's Office of Planning and Research
Letter No. 8 - The Resources Agency of California

Local Agencies

Letter No. 23 - City of San Diego
Letter No. 4 - San Diego Association of Governments (receipt form)
Letter No. 9 - San Diego Association of Governments
Letter No. 14 - San Diego County Board of Supervisors

Organizations

Letter No. 31 - American Wilderness Alliance
Letter No. 15 - Atlantic Richfield Company
Letter No. 47 - California Association of 4WD Clubs
Letter No. 58 - California Native Plant Society
Letter No. 51 - California Native Plant Society (June Latting)
Letter No. 57 - Ecology Center of Southern California
Letter No. 6 - Mountain Defense League
Letter No. 44 - People for Preservation of the Natural and Wild in Bay Area Open Space
Letter No. 1 - Regional Environmental Consultants
Letter No. 39 - San Diego Audubon Society
Letter No. 38 - San Diego Gem and Mineral Society
Letter No. 5 - San Diego State Off-Road Coalition
Letter No. 30 - San Diego State University, Department of Biology
Letter No. 41 - Sierra Club (San Diego Chapter)
Letter No. 29 - Sierra Club (Southern California Regional Conservation Committee)
Letter No. 40 - Sierra Club (Southern California Regional Vice President)
Letter No. 12 - The Wilderness Society

Individuals

Letter No. 32 - Harriet Allen
Letter No. 28 - Byron Anderson
Letter No. 34 - David Baxter
Letter No. 36 - Lillian Bieber
Letter No. 11 - Michael Calavito
Letter No. 50 - Alan Carlton
Letter No. 54 - Craig and Eileen Cunningham
Letter No. 16 - William De Jager
Letter No. 37 - Frances Dollar
Letter No. 52 - Ruth Douglas
Letter No. 46 - Eleanor Elander
Letter No. 24 - Linda Jean Foster
Letter No. 49 - Alexander Gaguire
Letter No. 17 - Ron Guenther
Letter No. 53 - Richard C. Hasbrouch
Letter No. 18 - Thomas Hunt
Letter No. 42 - Lawrence Kolb
Letter No. 26 - William J. Laden
Letter No. 22 - John Miller
Letter No. 33 - Frank Norris
Letter No. 21 - Goldie Otters
Letter No. 3 - Niles M. Parker
Letter No. 20 - Jennifer Rigby

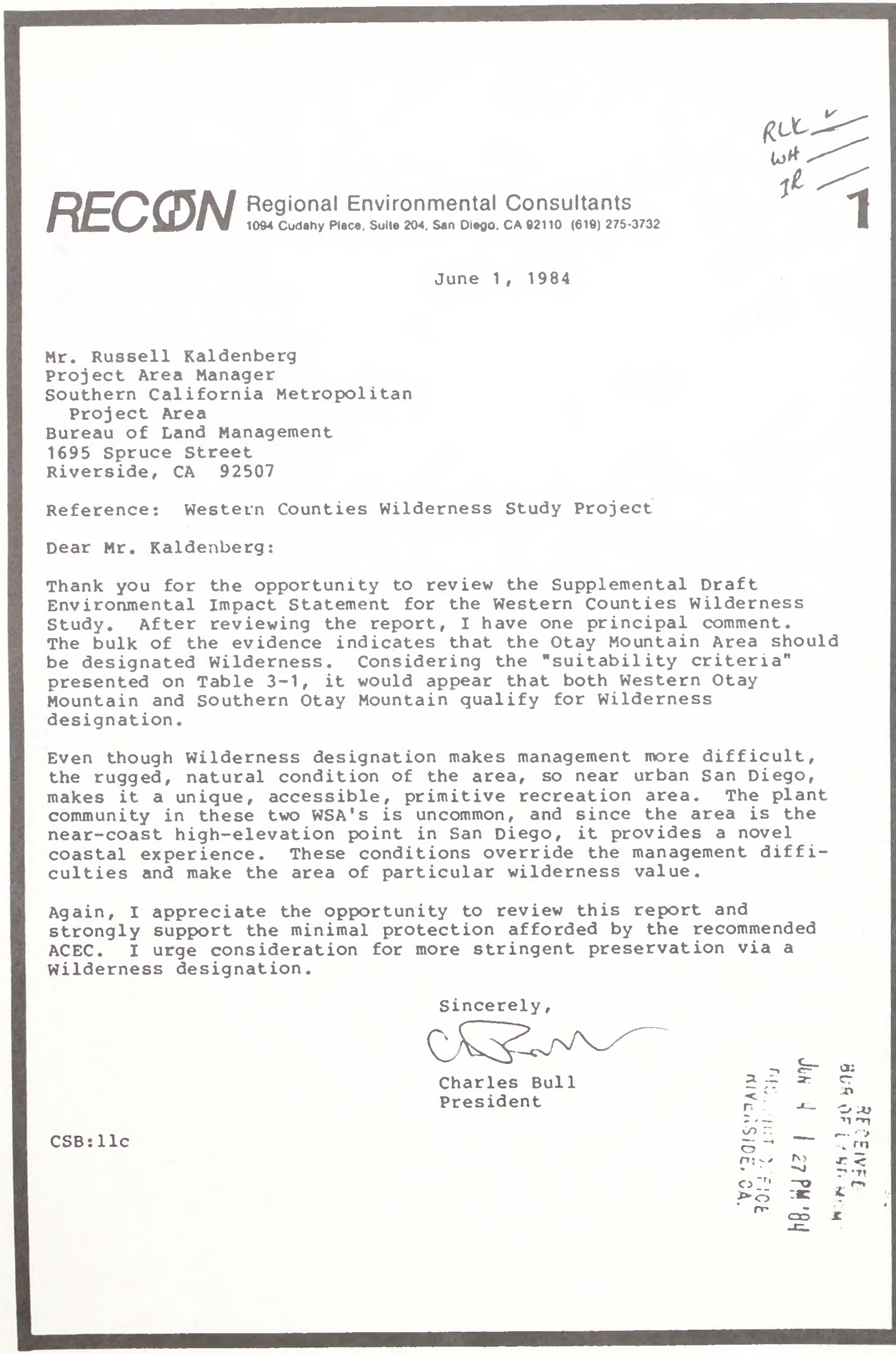
Individuals (Cont.)

Letter No. 45 - Donna R. Ripley
Letter No. 25 - Marion L. Sanford
Letter No. 55 - Timothy Savee
Letter No. 43 - Tom Suk
Letter No. 35 - John R. Swanson
Letter No. 27 - Georgette Theotig

COMMENT LETTERS

Each of the 59 letters received during the review of the Supplemental Draft EIS is reprinted on the following pages. All letters were reviewed to determine if they met the required criteria for response, i.e., discussion of the adequacy of the DEIS. Substantive comments which presented new data, questioned facts and or analyses, or commented on issues bearing directly on the DEIS or the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action were fully evaluated and given responses.

BLM's response to substantive comments begins on page 183. In the numbering system used to identify comments and responses, the first number is the number of the letter and the second number is the number of the comment within that letter.



RLK ✓
WH
JR

1

RECON Regional Environmental Consultants
1094 Cudahy Place, Suite 204, San Diego, CA 92110 (619) 275-3732

June 1, 1984

Mr. Russell Kaldenberg
Project Area Manager
Southern California Metropolitan
Project Area
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Reference: Western Counties Wilderness Study Project

Dear Mr. Kaldenberg:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Western Counties Wilderness Study. After reviewing the report, I have one principal comment. The bulk of the evidence indicates that the Otay Mountain Area should be designated Wilderness. Considering the "suitability criteria" presented on Table 3-1, it would appear that both Western Otay Mountain and Southern Otay Mountain qualify for Wilderness designation.

Even though Wilderness designation makes management more difficult, the rugged, natural condition of the area, so near urban San Diego, makes it a unique, accessible, primitive recreation area. The plant community in these two WSA's is uncommon, and since the area is the near-coast high-elevation point in San Diego, it provides a novel coastal experience. These conditions override the management difficulties and make the area of particular wilderness value.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to review this report and strongly support the minimal protection afforded by the recommended ACEC. I urge consideration for more stringent preservation via a Wilderness designation.

Sincerely,

Charles Bull
President

CSB:llc

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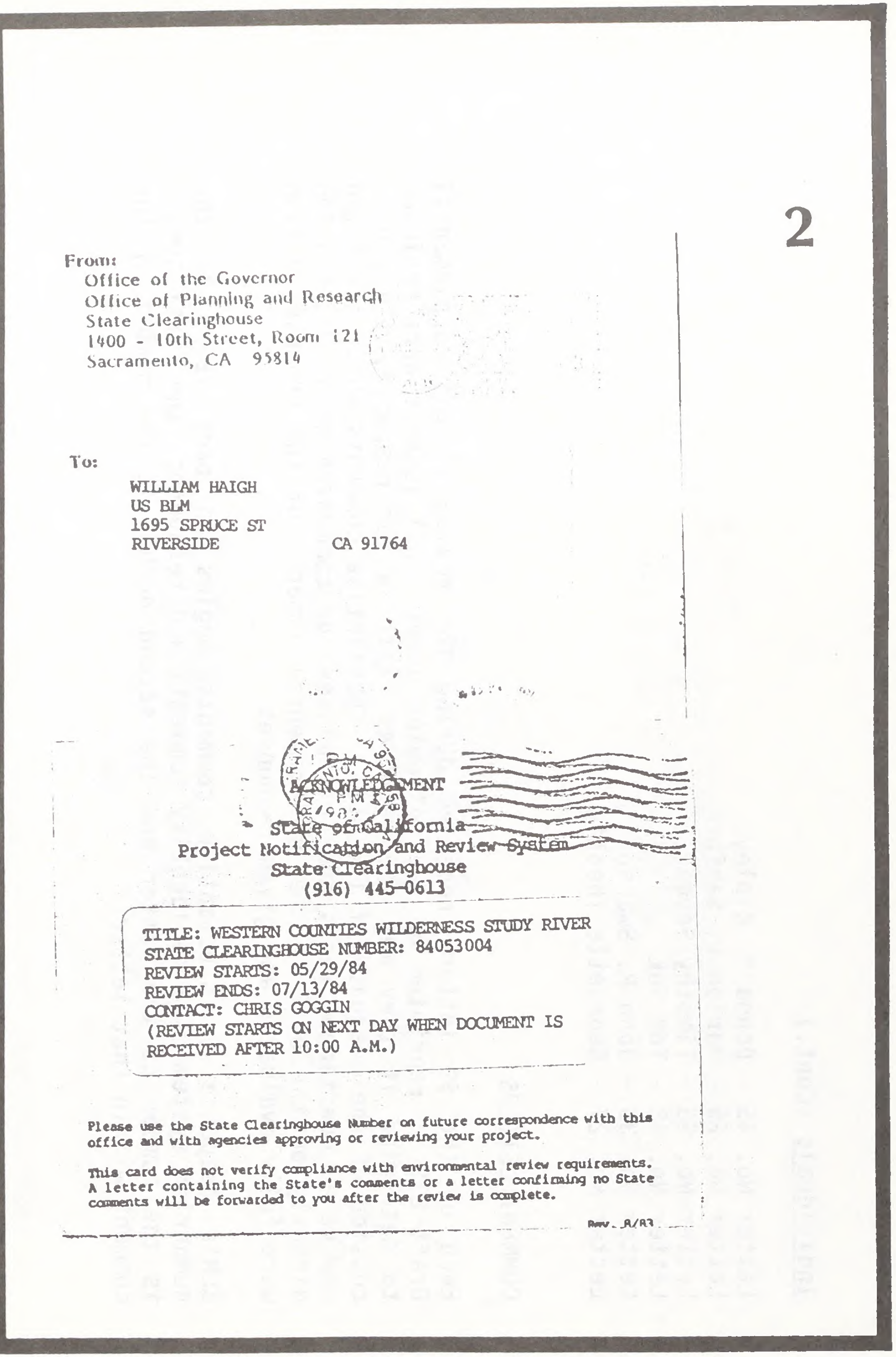
RIVERSIDE, CA.



2

From:
Office of the Governor
Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 - 10th Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

To:
WILLIAM HAIGH
US BLM
1695 SPRUCE ST
RIVERSIDE CA 91764

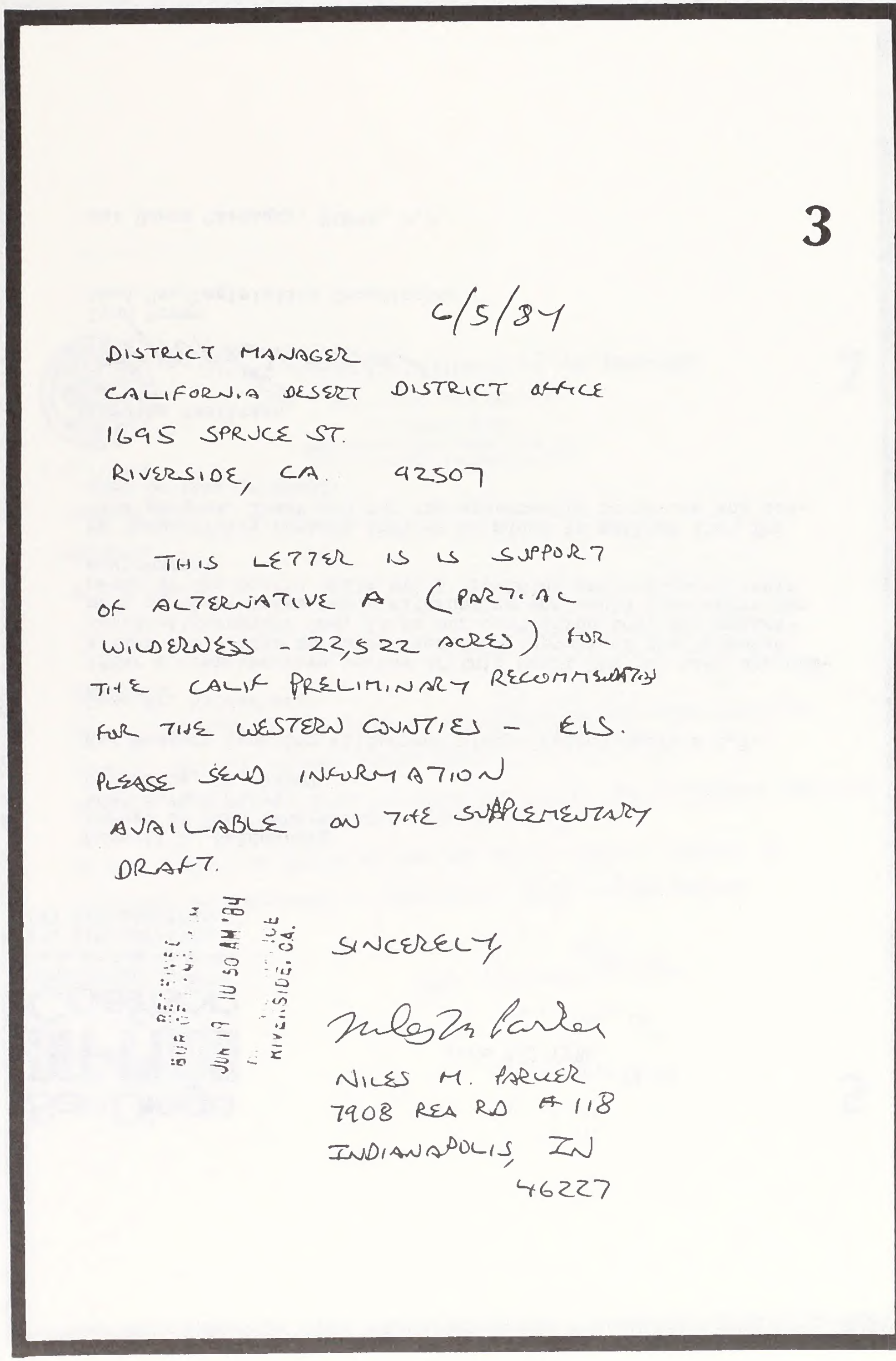
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
State of California
Project Notification and Review System
State Clearinghouse
(916) 445-0613

TITLE: WESTERN COUNTIES WILDERNESS STUDY RIVER
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 84053004
REVIEW STARTS: 05/29/84
REVIEW ENDS: 07/13/84
CONTACT: CHRIS GOGGIN
(REVIEW STARTS ON NEXT DAY WHEN DOCUMENT IS RECEIVED AFTER 10:00 A.M.)

Please use the State Clearinghouse Number on future correspondence with this office and with agencies approving or reviewing your project.

This card does not verify compliance with environmental review requirements. A letter containing the State's comments or a letter confirming no State comments will be forwarded to you after the review is complete.

Rev. 8/83



3

6/5/84

DISTRICT MANAGER
CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT OFFICE
1695 SPRUCE ST.
RIVERSIDE, CA. 92507

THIS LETTER IS IS SUPPORT OF ALTERNATIVE A (PARTIAL WILDERNESS - 22,522 ACRES) FOR THE CALIF PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION FOR THE WESTERN COUNTIES - EIS.

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE SUPPLEMENTARY DRAFT.

RECEIVED
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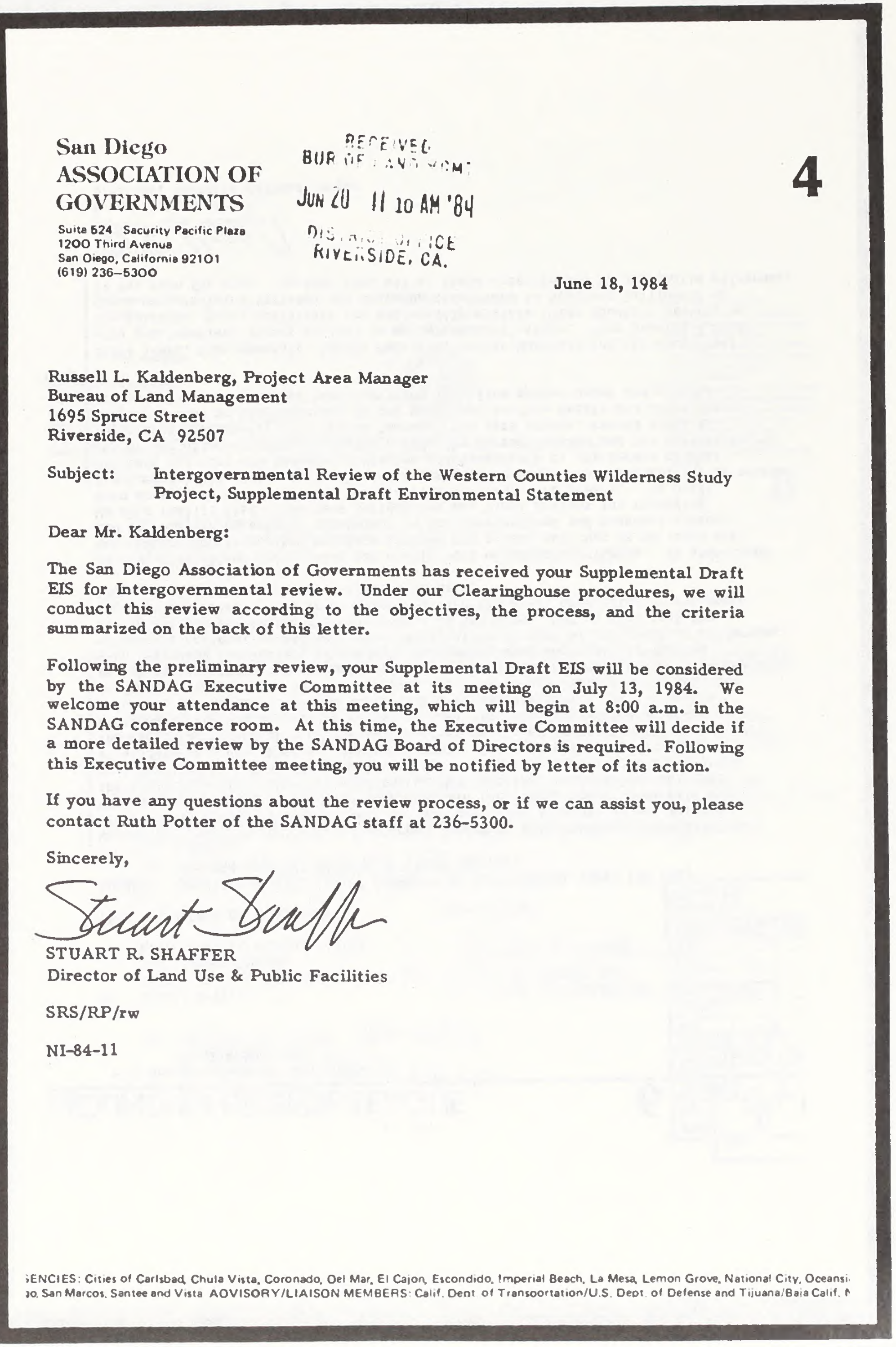
RIVERSIDE, CA.

SINCERELY

Niles M Parker

NILES M. PARKER
7908 REA RD # 118
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
46227



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San Diego
ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNMENTS
Suite 524 Security Pacific Plaza
1200 Third Avenue
San Diego, California 92101
(619) 236-5300

RECEIVED
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June 18, 1984

Russell L. Kaldenberg, Project Area Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Subject: Intergovernmental Review of the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project, Supplemental Draft Environmental Statement

Dear Mr. Kaldenberg:

The San Diego Association of Governments has received your Supplemental Draft EIS for Intergovernmental review. Under our Clearinghouse procedures, we will conduct this review according to the objectives, the process, and the criteria summarized on the back of this letter.

Following the preliminary review, your Supplemental Draft EIS will be considered by the SANDAG Executive Committee at its meeting on July 13, 1984. We welcome your attendance at this meeting, which will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the SANDAG conference room. At this time, the Executive Committee will decide if a more detailed review by the SANDAG Board of Directors is required. Following this Executive Committee meeting, you will be notified by letter of its action.

If you have any questions about the review process, or if we can assist you, please contact Ruth Potter of the SANDAG staff at 236-5300.

Sincerely,

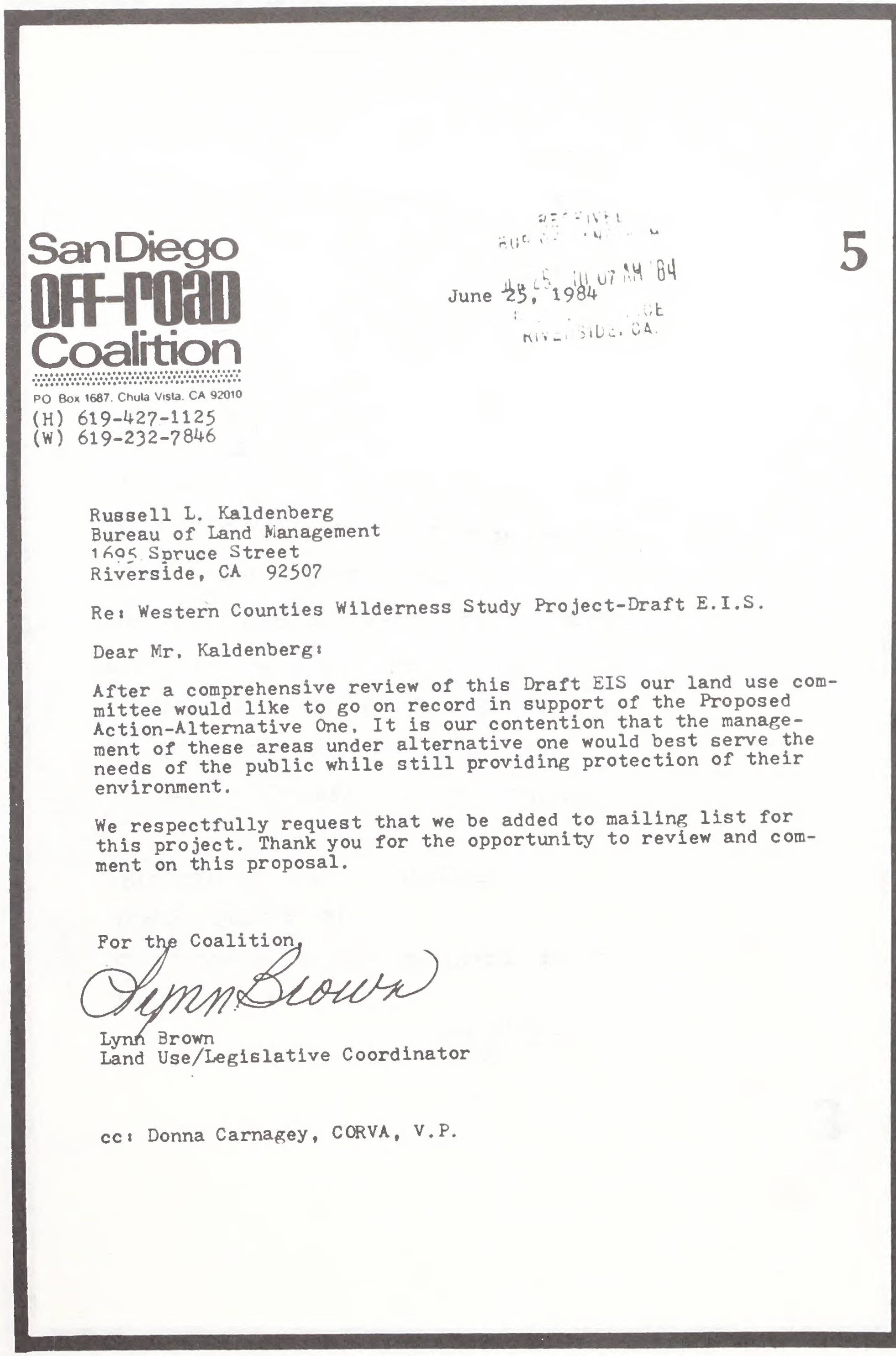
Stuart Shaffer

STUART R. SHAFFER
Director of Land Use & Public Facilities

SRS/RP/rw

NI-84-11

ENCIES: Cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceansi
o, San Marcos, Santee and Vista ADVISORY/LIAISON MEMBERS: Calif. Dept. of Transportation/U.S. Dept. of Defense and Tijuana/Baja Calif. N



5

San Diego
OFF-ROAD
Coalition
PO Box 1687, Chula Vista, CA 92010
(H) 619-427-1125
(W) 619-232-7846

June 25, 1984

RIVERSIDE, CA.

Russell L. Kaldenberg
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Re: Western Counties Wilderness Study Project-Draft E.I.S.

Dear Mr. Kaldenberg:

After a comprehensive review of this Draft EIS our land use committee would like to go on record in support of the Proposed Action-Alternative One. It is our contention that the management of these areas under alternative one would best serve the needs of the public while still providing protection of their environment.

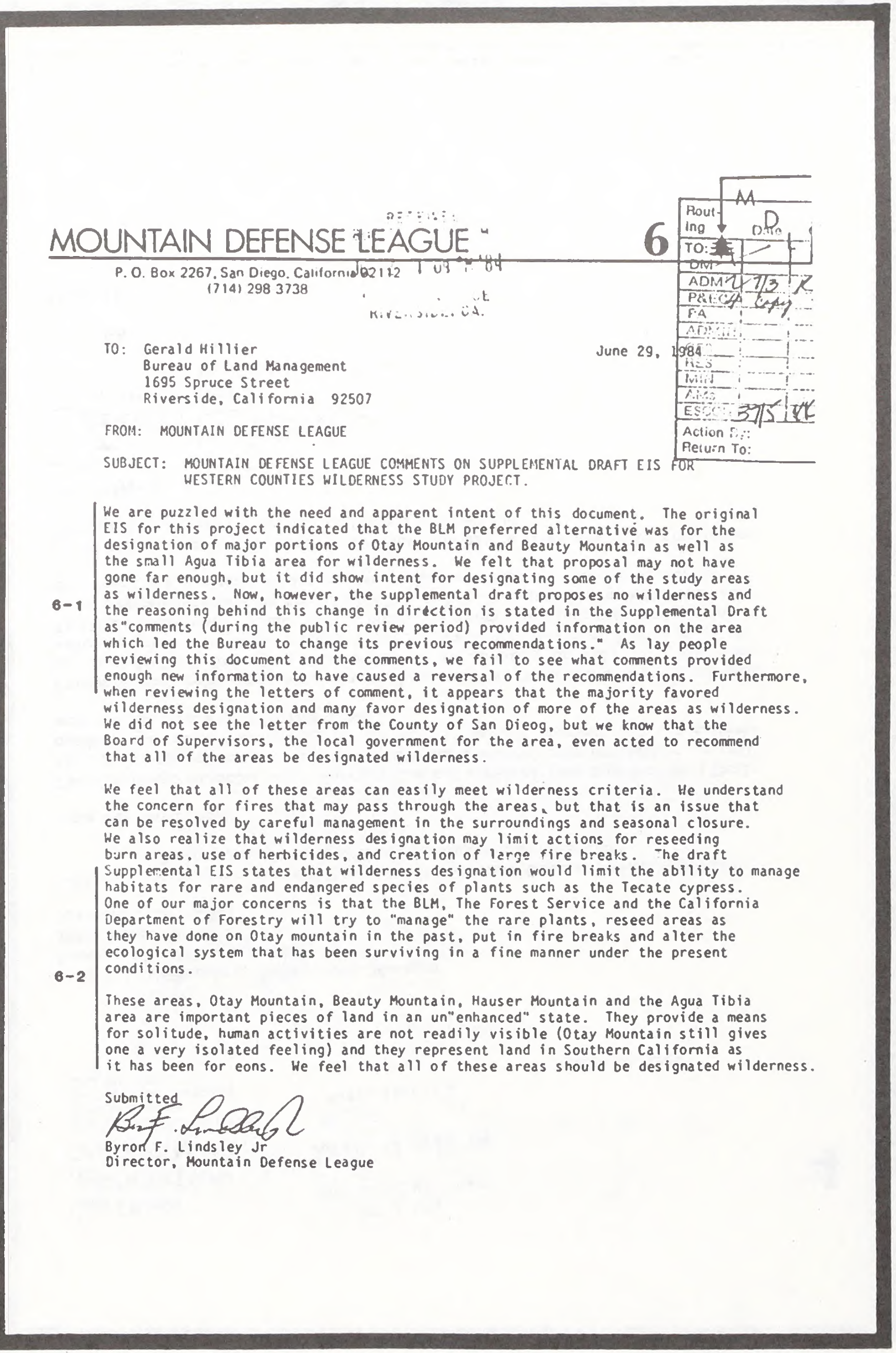
We respectfully request that we be added to mailing list for this project. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this proposal.

For the Coalition,

Lynn Brown

Lynn Brown
Land Use/Legislative Coordinator

cc: Donna Carnagey, CORVA, V.P.



6

MOUNTAIN DEFENSE LEAGUE
P. O. Box 2267, San Diego, California 92112
(714) 298 3738

RIVERSIDE, CA.

Routing
TO:
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Action By:
Return To:

June 29, 1984

TO: Gerald Hillier
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

FROM: MOUNTAIN DEFENSE LEAGUE

SUBJECT: MOUNTAIN DEFENSE LEAGUE COMMENTS ON SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT EIS FOR WESTERN COUNTIES WILDERNESS STUDY PROJECT.

6-1 We are puzzled with the need and apparent intent of this document. The original EIS for this project indicated that the BLM preferred alternative was for the designation of major portions of Otay Mountain and Beauty Mountain as well as the small Agua Tibia area for wilderness. We felt that proposal may not have gone far enough, but it did show intent for designating some of the study areas as wilderness. Now, however, the supplemental draft proposes no wilderness and the reasoning behind this change in direction is stated in the Supplemental Draft as "comments (during the public review period) provided information on the area which led the Bureau to change its previous recommendations." As lay people reviewing this document and the comments, we fail to see what comments provided enough new information to have caused a reversal of the recommendations. Furthermore, when reviewing the letters of comment, it appears that the majority favored wilderness designation and many favor designation of more of the areas as wilderness. We did not see the letter from the County of San Dieog, but we know that the Board of Supervisors, the local government for the area, even acted to recommend that all of the areas be designated wilderness.

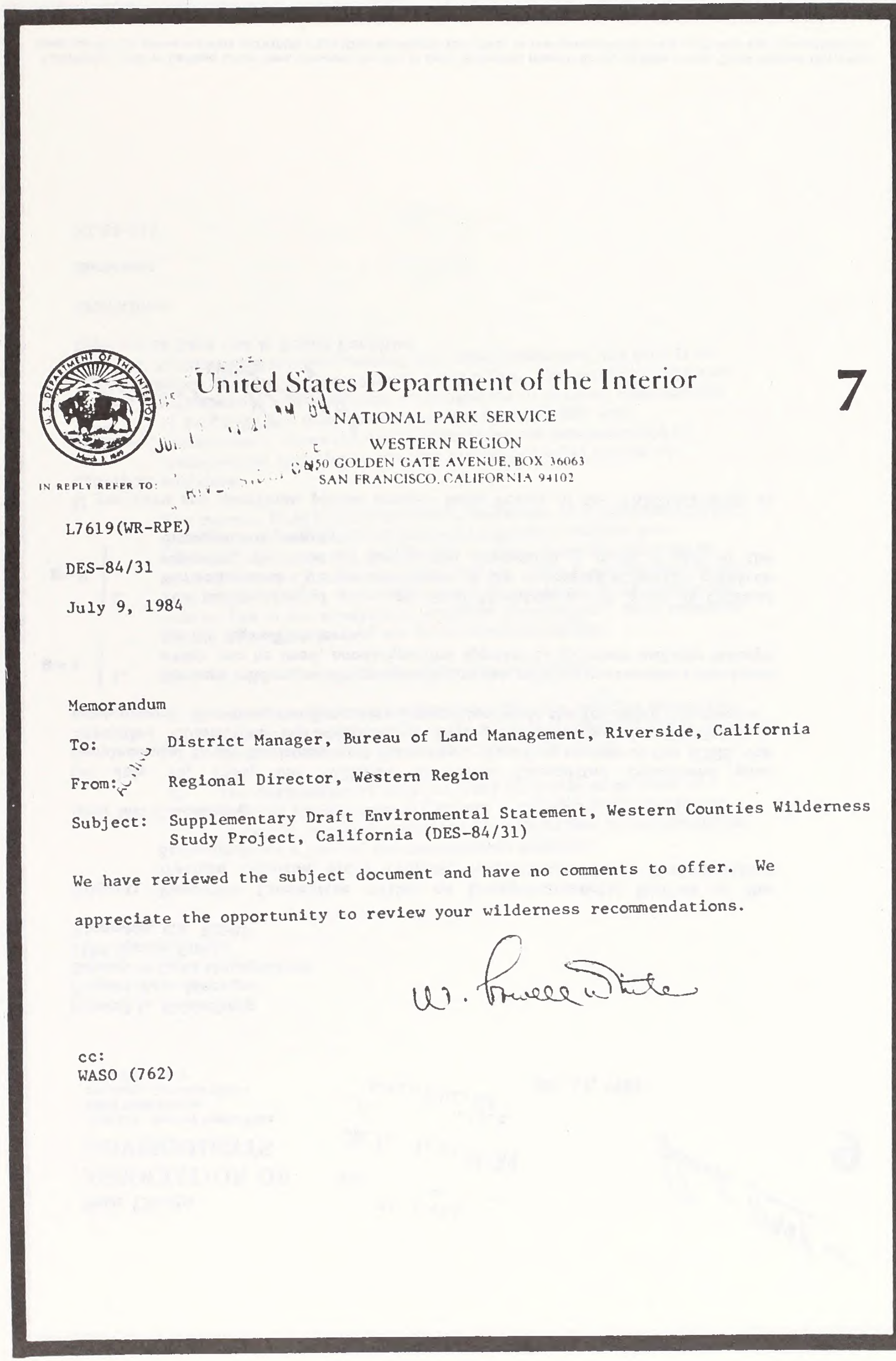
We feel that all of these areas can easily meet wilderness criteria. We understand the concern for fires that may pass through the areas, but that is an issue that can be resolved by careful management in the surroundings and seasonal closure. We also realize that wilderness designation may limit actions for reseeding burn areas, use of herbicides, and creation of large fire breaks. The draft Supplemental EIS states that wilderness designation would limit the ability to manage habitats for rare and endangered species of plants such as the Tecate cypress. One of our major concerns is that the BLM, The Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry will try to "manage" the rare plants, reseed areas as they have done on Otay mountain in the past, put in fire breaks and alter the ecological system that has been surviving in a fine manner under the present conditions.

6-2

These areas, Otay Mountain, Beauty Mountain, Hauser Mountain and the Agua Tibia area are important pieces of land in an un"enhanced" state. They provide a means for solitude, human activities are not readily visible (Otay Mountain still gives one a very isolated feeling) and they represent land in Southern California as it has been for eons. We feel that all of these areas should be designated wilderness.

Submitted
B. F. Lindsley

Byron F. Lindsley Jr
Director, Mountain Defense League



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, BOX 36063
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

IN REPLY REFER TO:

7

L7619(WR-RPE)

DES-84/31

July 9, 1984

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Riverside, California

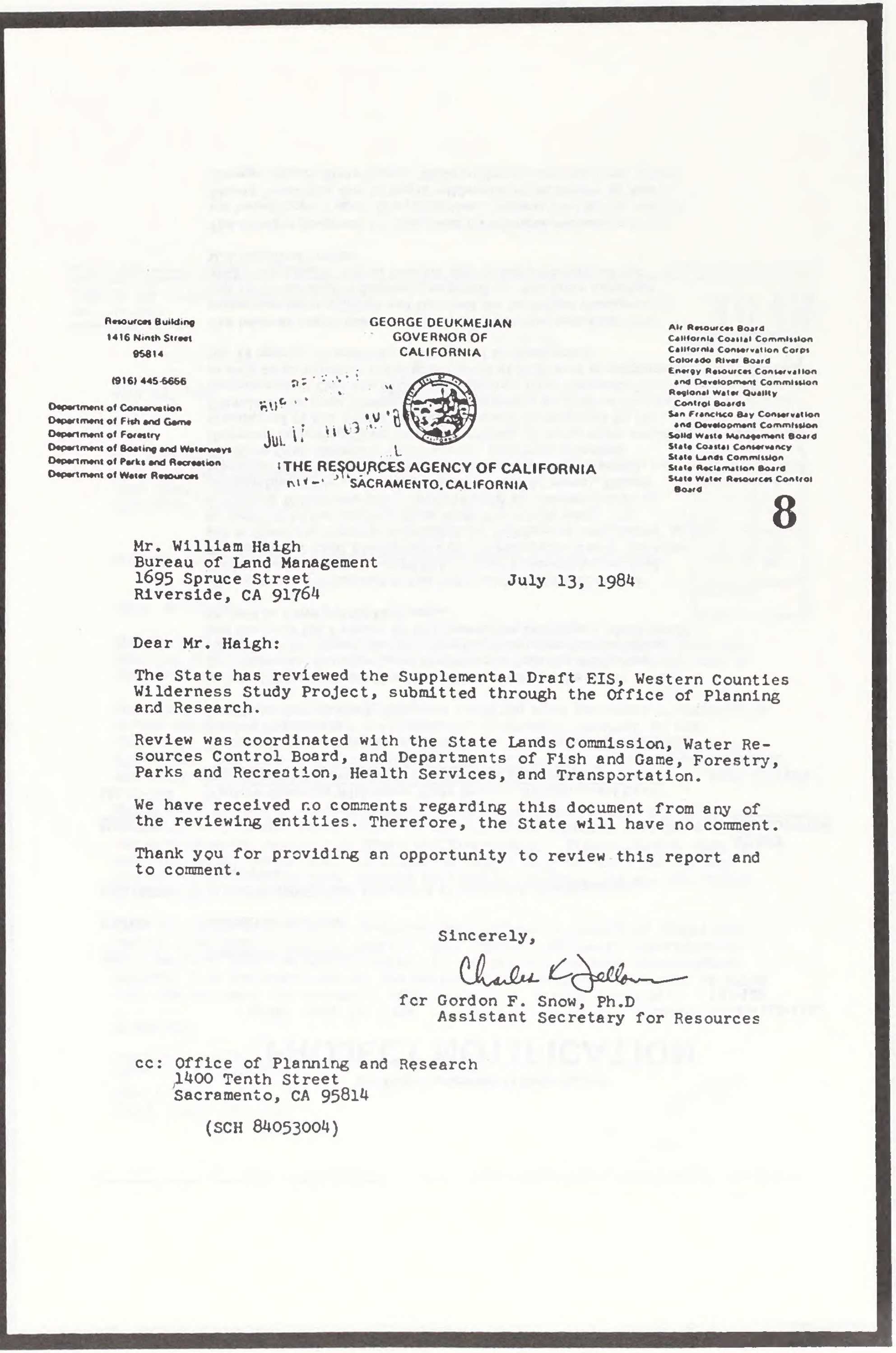
From: Regional Director, Western Region

Subject: Supplementary Draft Environmental Statement, Western Counties Wilderness Study Project, California (DES-84/31)

We have reviewed the subject document and have no comments to offer. We appreciate the opportunity to review your wilderness recommendations.

W. Lowell White

cc:
WASO (762)



Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street
95814

(916) 445-5656

Department of Conservation
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Forestry
Department of Boating and Waterways
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Water Resources

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
GOVERNOR OF
CALIFORNIA

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Air Resources Board
California Coastal Commission
California Conservation Corps
Colorado River Board
Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission
Regional Water Quality Control Boards
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
Solid Waste Management Board
State Coastal Conservancy
State Lands Commission
State Reclamation Board
State Water Resources Control Board

8

Mr. William Haigh
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 91764

July 13, 1984

Dear Mr. Haigh:

The State has reviewed the Supplemental Draft EIS, Western Counties Wilderness Study Project, submitted through the Office of Planning and Research.

Review was coordinated with the State Lands Commission, Water Resources Control Board, and Departments of Fish and Game, Forestry, Parks and Recreation, Health Services, and Transportation.

We have received no comments regarding this document from any of the reviewing entities. Therefore, the State will have no comment.

Thank you for providing an opportunity to review this report and to comment.

Sincerely,

Charles K

for Gordon F. Snow, Ph.D
Assistant Secretary for Resources

cc: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

(SCH 84053004)

San Diego
ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNMENTS
Suite 524 Security Pacific Plaza
1200 Third Avenue
San Diego, California 92101
(619) 236-5300

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RIVERSIDE, CA.

7/18/84 ✓

9

July 13, 1984

Russell L. Kaldenberg
Project Area Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Subject: Executive Committee Action on Intergovernmental Review of the Western Counties Study Project, Supplemental Draft Environmental Statement

Dear Mr. Kaldenberg:

On July 13, 1984, the SANDAG Executive Committee considered your Supplemental Draft Environmental Statement. Based on review of the DSES, the Executive Committee has determined that further review by SANDAG is unnecessary. However, the Executive Committee made the following comments:

9-1 1. Because wilderness designation limits the wildfire prevention techniques which can be used, nondesignation appears to be more suitable (except for the Agua Tibia area).

9-2 2. The designation of areas on Otay Mountain as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern is suitable if the necessary scientific research regarding the role of fire in the ecosystem is made a part of the management program.

If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Potter of the SANDAG staff at 236-5300.

Sincerely,

Stuart Shaffer
STUART R. SHAFFER
Director of Land Use & Public Facilities

SRS/RP/rw

Enclosure

NI-84-115

AGENCIES: Cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Ocear
Diego, San Marcos, Santee and Vista ADVISORY/LIAISON MEMBERS: Calif. Dept. of Transportation/U.S. Dept. of Defense and Tijuana/Baja Calif

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San Diego Association of Governments

PROJECT NOTIFICATION

DATE: July 13, 1984
ITEM No.: NI-84-115-116, 121-122

TO: Executive Committee

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Project Notifications Submitted to Areawide Clearinghouse June, 1984

Item No.		STAFF RECOMMENDATIO
(A) NI-115	Western Counties Wilderness Study Project, Supplemental Draft Environmental Statement/Bureau of Land Management	NOT REVIEW/ COMMENT

Reviewed Pursuant to State of California Intergovernmental Review Procedures
Deadline: September 5, 1984

In July 1982, the Executive Committee reviewed the Draft Environmental Statement for the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project. There was considerable discussion about wildfire and the need for a report on fire prevention techniques which would be used in these public land areas.

The study area is located in San Diego and Western Riverside Counties and encompasses 30,881 acres of federally owned land. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recommends only 360 acres (all in Riverside County) as suitable for "wilderness designation" as an addition to the existing Agua Tibia Wilderness Area. The remaining Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) are recommended as nonsuitable. They are Beauty Mountain (11,342 acres), Hauser Mountain (5,489 acres), Western Otay Mountain (5,750 acres), and Southern Otay Mountain (7,940 acres). (See map attached) However, following Congressional decision, all these areas would be transferred to the Forest Service and would be managed by the Cleveland National Forest. BLM recommends an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) for the two Otay Mountain WSA's as well as an adjacent 2,700 acre parcel of BLM land to perpetuate the 14 species of sensitive plants found in these areas.

The issue of major concern to SANDAG in these areas has been protection from wildfire and the need for brushland management due to the extensive chaparral vegetation. The Otay Mountain WSA's, especially, are of concern due to the proximity of the U.S./Mexican border.

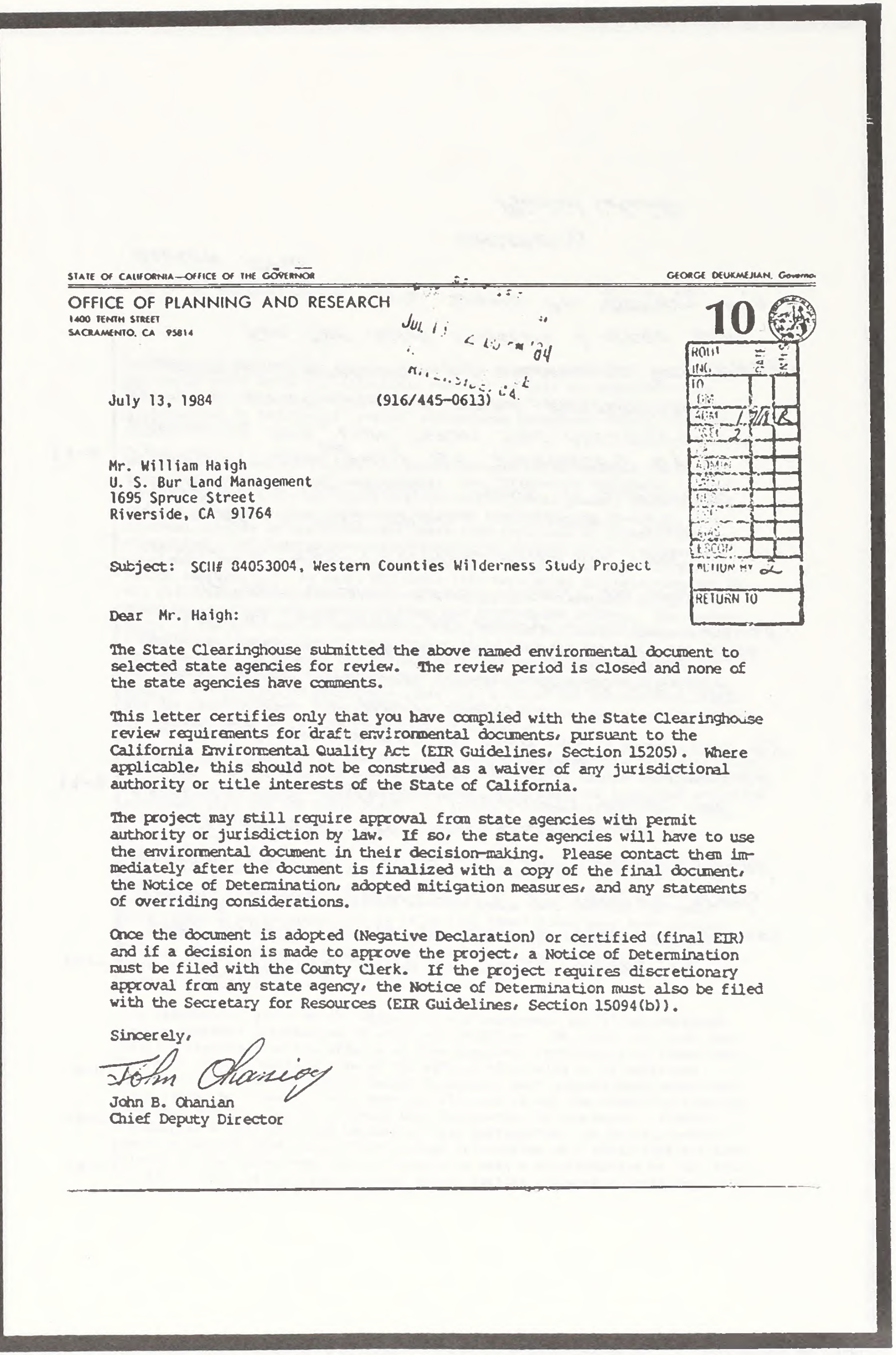
The changes proposed by BLM from its previous recommendation are based largely upon fire protection concerns (and in the case of Beauty Mountain, due to larger wilderness areas nearby in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park). While wilderness management allows the use of prescribed burning and other techniques, the goal is to allow vegetation to grow back after a fire. The establishment and maintenance of fuelbreaks, establishment of grasses, construction of facilities and other techniques are incompatible with "wilderness". However, these techniques are recommended by management agencies to prevent the uncontrolled spread of wildfires.

The current BLM recommendation, therefore, is in agreement with previously stated SANDAG concerns regarding wildfire prevention. However, the ACEC area on Otay Mountain remains an area of concern for its vegetative values. This is emphasized in the supplemental DES: "Scientific research, particularly regarding the role of fire in the ecosystem, would be encouraged." Such research should be made a part of the BLM recommendation.

Therefore, staff suggests the following comments:

1. Because wilderness designation limits the wildfire prevention techniques which can be used, nondesignation appears to be more suitable (except for the Agua Tibia area).

2. The designation of areas on Otay Mountain as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern is suitable if the necessary scientific research regarding the role of fire in the ecosystem is made a part of the management program.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA—OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

10

JUL 13 2 ... '84
RIVERSIDE, CA.

ROUTING | DATE | INITS
TO
DM
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SEC 2
ADMIN
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RETURN TO

July 13, 1984 (916/445-0613)

Mr. William Haigh
U. S. Bur Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 91764

Subject: SCH# 84053004, Western Counties Wilderness Study Project

Dear Mr. Haigh:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named environmental document to selected state agencies for review. The review period is closed and none of the state agencies have comments.

This letter certifies only that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (EIR Guidelines, Section 15205). Where applicable, this should not be construed as a waiver of any jurisdictional authority or title interests of the State of California.

The project may still require approval from state agencies with permit authority or jurisdiction by law. If so, the state agencies will have to use the environmental document in their decision-making. Please contact them immediately after the document is finalized with a copy of the final document, the Notice of Determination, adopted mitigation measures, and any statements of overriding considerations.

Once the document is adopted (Negative Declaration) or certified (final EIR) and if a decision is made to approve the project, a Notice of Determination must be filed with the County Clerk. If the project requires discretionary approval from any state agency, the Notice of Determination must also be filed with the Secretary for Resources (EIR Guidelines, Section 15094(b)).

Sincerely,

John Ohanian

John B. Ohanian
Chief Deputy Director

11

MICHAEL COLAVITO
21 MAPLE AVE.
CHAPPAQUA, N.Y. 10514
JULY 18, 1984.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
METROPOLITAN PROJECT AREA
1695 SPRUCE ST.
RIVERSIDE CA. 92507

RE: WESTERN COUNTIES WILDERNESS SUPPLEMENTAL DEIS

DEAR MR. KALDENBERG,

THANK YOU FOR THE COPY OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL DEIS AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT.

I CONCUR W/THE BLM PROPOSALS FOR DESIGNATION OF AGUA TIBIA AS SUITABLE FOR WILDERNESS AND FOR ACEC DESIGNATIONS OF THE WESTERN AND SOUTHERN OTAY PARCELS.

HOWEVER, I FEEL THAT BOTH HAUSER MTN. AND BEAUTY MTN. SHOULD BE CHANGED TO SUITABLE STATUS FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

11-1 ① ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATIN SYSTEM IS TO SAVE EXAMPLES OF AS MANY DIFFERENT ECOSYSTEM TYPES AS POSSIBLE; AS THE TYPE IN THE BEAUTY AND HAUSER UNITS (CHAPARRAL-COASTAL SAGE SCRUB) HAS POOR OCCURANCE IN THE NWPS I FEEL THAT THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON (TABLE 3-1, PAGE 3-2)

11-2 ② THE FIRE HAZARDS ARE LESS EXTREME THAN IN THE OTAY PARCELS

11-3 ③ THE PROXIMITY OF THESE AREAS TO VERY HIGHLY DENSE POPULATION CENTERS MAKES THEM A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE OPEN, NATURAL AREAS CLOSE TO THE URBAN AREAS.

④ DESPITE THE GOOD DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS IN THE VICINITY OF THESE PARCELS; THE DEMAND FOR MORE WILDERNESS IS HIGH AS EVIDENCED BY USE FIGURES OF MANY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NWPS UNITS. ALL OF THESE AREAS RECIEVE INCREASING USE EACH YEAR W/USE RESTRICTING LIMITATIONS IMPOSED ON MANY DUE TO OVERUSE.

11-4 ⑤ THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL IN MY OPINION IS THE PREMIER UNIT OF THE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS SYSTEM. THE EXPERIENCE OF HIKING ALONG IT'S VARIED TERRAINS CAN ONLY BE ENHANCED BY ENSURING FOR THE LONG TERM THE PRESERVATION OF IT'S ENVIRONMENTS THRU PERMANENT PROTECTION AFFORDED BY WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.

FOR THE ABOVE REASONS I URGE BLM TO RECONSIDER IT'S STAND ON BEAUTY AND HAUSER MTNS.

SINCERELY,

Michael Colavito

AUG 1 [illegible] PM '84

12

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
FOUNDED IN 1935

July 30, 1984

Mr. Russell L. Kaldenberg
Project Area Manager
Southern California Metropolitan
  Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Dear Mr. Kaldenberg:

The Wilderness Society is pleased to have this opportunity to comment on the Western Counties Supplemental DEIS. However, we are not pleased with the results of that second study.

12-1 Recommending a mere 360 acres as wilderness out of a total 30,881 acres, each of which has already been shown by BLM in its original inventory to have wilderness characteristics, is inexcusable. The loss of these areas to be enjoyed in their natural state by present and future generations would be a tragic and irreversible mistake. We instead recommend the All Wilderness alternative, or at the least we would accept Alternative #5, which is equivalent to BLM's original recommendation in the previous DEIS.

There are several flaws and inconsistencies in this Supplmental DEIS. The
first has to do with the areas themselves. The same problems that existed
during the first study exist today, yet they did not hamper wilderness recom-
mendations in the original DEIS. We are, of course, very happy with the
suitable recommendation of Agua Tibia as a Wilderness area and its addition
to the existing Agua Tibia Wilderness Area. Yet how can BLM justify changing
its recommendation of Beauty Mountain to non-wilderness? This is an area that,
in BLM's own words, "...is in essentially a natural condition," where "...the
12-2 works of man are substantially unnoticeable." Beauty Mountain also exhibits
"outstanding opportunities for solitude" and, as its name implies, "outstanding
scenic quality." In fact, BLM gives it an "A rating for scenic quality." The
state-listed rare Stephen's kangaroo rat and three rare plants also make their
home here.

Hauser Mountain is "essentially in a natural state," and "provides outstanding
12-3 opportunities for solitude throughout the unit." Six rare plants and a number
of animal species are found here, and their continued presence would be short-
lived with a non-wilderness designation.

278 POST STREET, #400, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108
(415) 982-2795

A Wilderness designation for the Otays would provide the needed protection, and would still allow for scientific research as well as compatible fire control measures. Prescribed burning is allowed "where it will perpetuate a threatened or endangered species" (Wilderness Management Policy, BLM 1981, p. 19).

We find the arguments in favor of non-wilderness recommendation for these four areas to be weak and inconsistent. The "Wilderness Management Policy" handbook states that "all fires will be controlled to prevent loss of human life or property within wilderness areas or to prevent the spread of fire to areas outside of the wilderness where life, resources or property may be threatened...pre-suppression activities may be allowed to meet wilderness management objectives and where necessary for the protection of the public health and safety." In fact, BLM makes this very point in their response to the California Department of Forestry's comments: "Wilderness designation would not preclude all pre-suppression and suppression actions. The experiences of the U.S. Forest Service with units of the National Wilderness Preservation System, Anza Borrego Desert State Park and the California Wilderness Preservation System, and CDF/BLM fire suppression actions in WSAs in the past three years, have shown that life and property can be protected both in and outside of wilderness areas" (p. 5-10 of the Supplemental DEIS). BLM has now completely reversed its own policy, and has done so at the urging of the very same California Department of Forestry!

Furthermore, if the CDF is unable to come up with a compatible fire management technique, then it seems it may be necessary for BLM to either take on the fire management responsibilities themselves, or to work out a special condition agreement with CDF for these areas. It is BLM's responsibility, not CDF's, to manage these lands.

12-4 This question of fire raises another interesting point, perhaps outside of the DEIS study process. FLPMA directs that until designated non-wilderness by Congress, WSAs are to be managed as wilderness. Yet BLM makes no mention of any conflicts with fire management on these areas over the past few years. This raises a serious question of if in fact these areas have been managed as wilderness. And if BLM has indeed been following the interim management policy, why is no mention made of the conflicts resulting in the new recommendations? It is difficult to believe that the label of "Wilderness" will suddenly result in uncontrollable conflagrations.

The information given on the effects of non-management guidelines outlined
in the proposed alternative is seriously deficient. We would like more spe-
cific information on the effects of fire management techniques on these WSAs.
12-5 There is also no mention made of the effects of grazing or of continued
border patrol. Environmental Impact Statements must present each management
requirement or objective of a proposed alternative and the resulting impacts.
12-6 The same applies for the proposed ACEC designation in the Otays. Nowhere
in chapter 4 is listed the impacts of this designation. It is also rather
12-7 hard to believe that there is not enough information on a plant that has been
placed on the Endangered list to be able to make a determination of the effects
of fire. Part of the study process should include research on existing flora

Mr. Russell L. Kaldenberg July 30, 1984
Page Three

and fauna to know if a naturally disturbed or an untouched environment is more beneficial.

Lastly, in BLM's own words, "failure to designate all or portions of WSAs as wilderness areas would allow incremental degradation of the area's wilderness characteristics to occur...the wilderness resource might be irretrievably lost if wilderness characteristics are impaired." Considering the natural qualities -- visual, recreational and scientific -- of these areas as already described in both the 1979 Inventory and the EISs, it would be both inappropriate and inconsistent with Congressional mandate to designate these areas anything but Wilderness.

Again, we heartily encourage BLM to adopt the All Wilderness Alternative. To date BLM has been sorely deficient in recommending WSAs as Wilderness. Our state cannot afford to lose any more of its precious wilderness acres.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Patricia Hedge
Regional Director,
California-Nevada

Jeri Galbraith

Jeri Galbraith
Administrative Assistant,
California, Nevada

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—THE RESOURCES AGENCY GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P.O. BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO 95811
(916) 323-9988

13

Routing Date
TO: DM
ADM 8/9

August 3, 1984

Mr. Gerald E. Hillier, District Manager
California Desert District
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Dear Mr. Hillier:

Comment on Preliminary Wilderness Recommendations for the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project Escondido-Border Planning Unit

13-1 The proposed location of an off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation site in the Otay Mesa area may affect your study. The potential use of some of the BLM lands in the vicinity of Otay Mesa should be evaluated as it relates to the San Diego County proposal.

On July 18, 1984, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution in support of consideration of the Otay Mesa OHV site (letter, resolution, and map attached).

On July 28, 1984, the California Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Commission unanimously passed a resolution requesting a feasibility study for the proposed Otay Mesa OHV recreation site (resolution attached).

There is a pressing need for an OHV recreation site near the San Diego metropolitan area. No legal OHV recreation site is presently in existence near San Diego's large and growing OHV user population.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at the above number.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and the opportunity to comment on your planning effort.

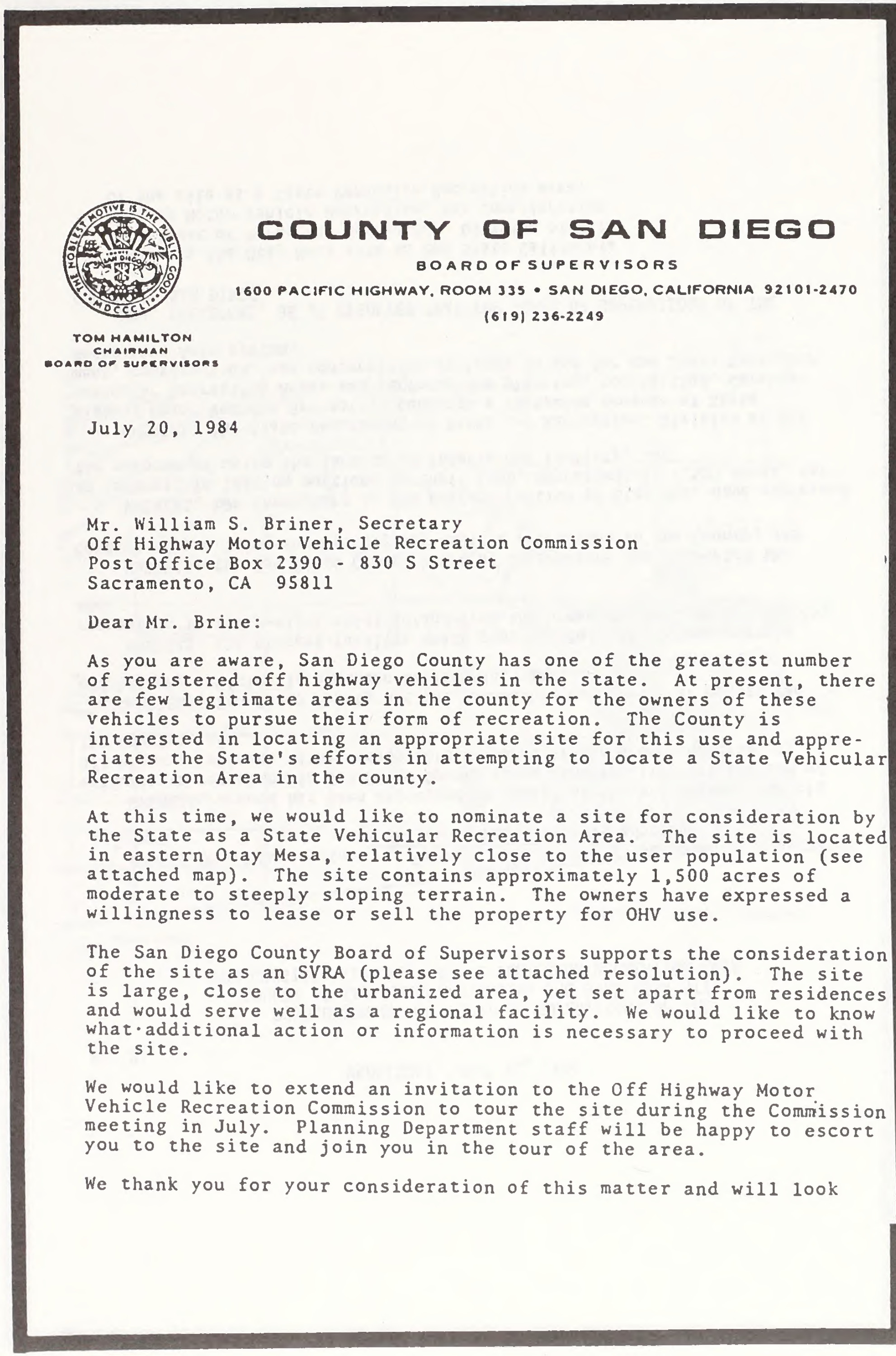
Sincerely,

Alan K Kolster

Alan K. Kolster, Supervisor
Professional Services Section
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle
Recreation Division

Attachments

B-0514V



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335 • SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

(619) 236-2249

TOM HAMILTON
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

July 20, 1984

Mr. William S. Briner, Secretary
Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission
Post Office Box 2390 - 830 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Brine:

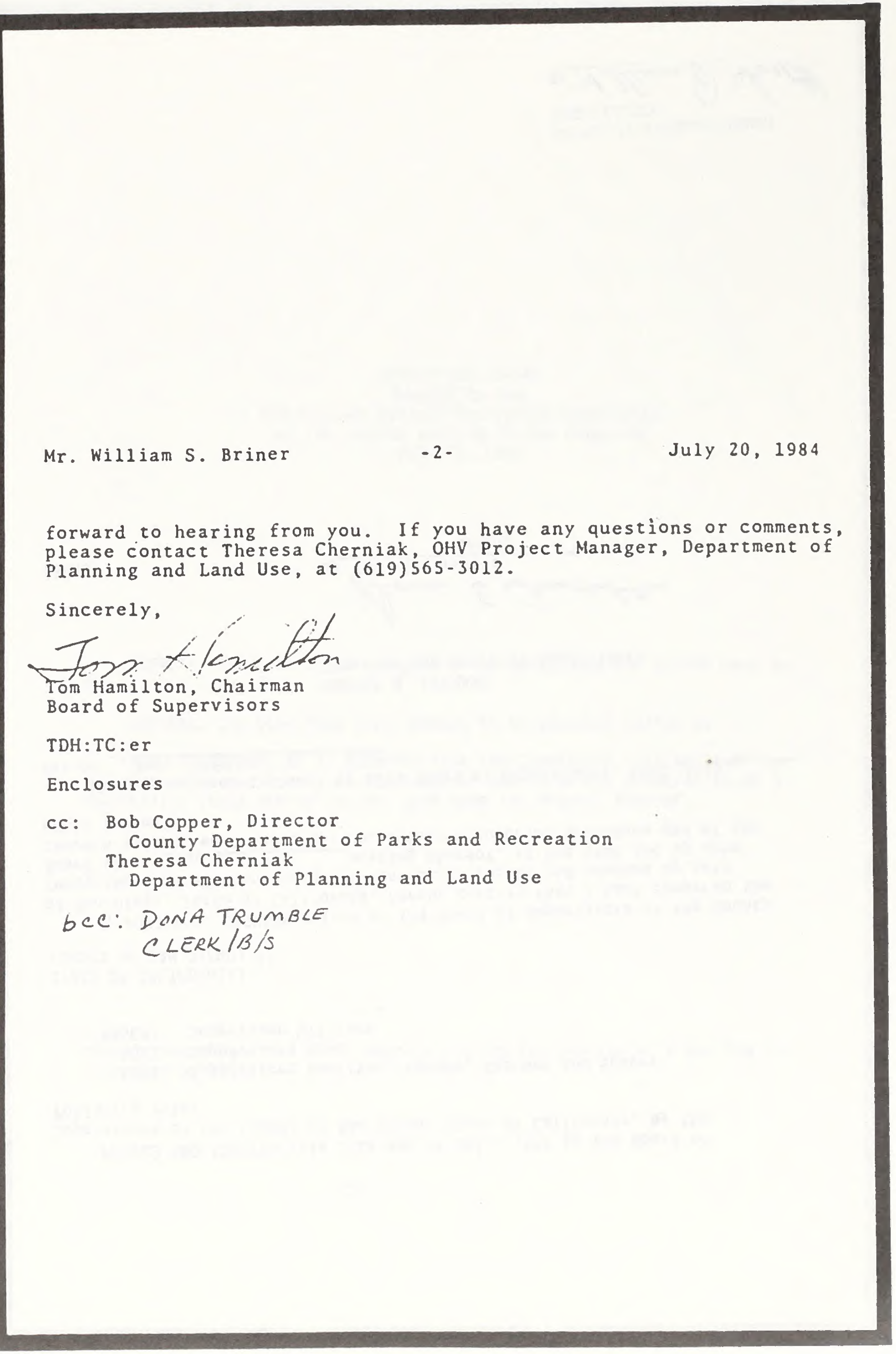
As you are aware, San Diego County has one of the greatest number of registered off highway vehicles in the state. At present, there are few legitimate areas in the county for the owners of these vehicles to pursue their form of recreation. The County is interested in locating an appropriate site for this use and appreciates the State's efforts in attempting to locate a State Vehicular Recreation Area in the county.

At this time, we would like to nominate a site for consideration by the State as a State Vehicular Recreation Area. The site is located in eastern Otay Mesa, relatively close to the user population (see attached map). The site contains approximately 1,500 acres of moderate to steeply sloping terrain. The owners have expressed a willingness to lease or sell the property for OHV use.

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors supports the consideration of the site as an SVRA (please see attached resolution). The site is large, close to the urbanized area, yet set apart from residences and would serve well as a regional facility. We would like to know what additional action or information is necessary to proceed with the site.

We would like to extend an invitation to the Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission to tour the site during the Commission meeting in July. Planning Department staff will be happy to escort you to the site and join you in the tour of the area.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter and will look



forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Theresa Cherniak, OHV Project Manager, Department of Planning and Land Use, at (619)565-3012.

Sincerely,

Tom Hamilton

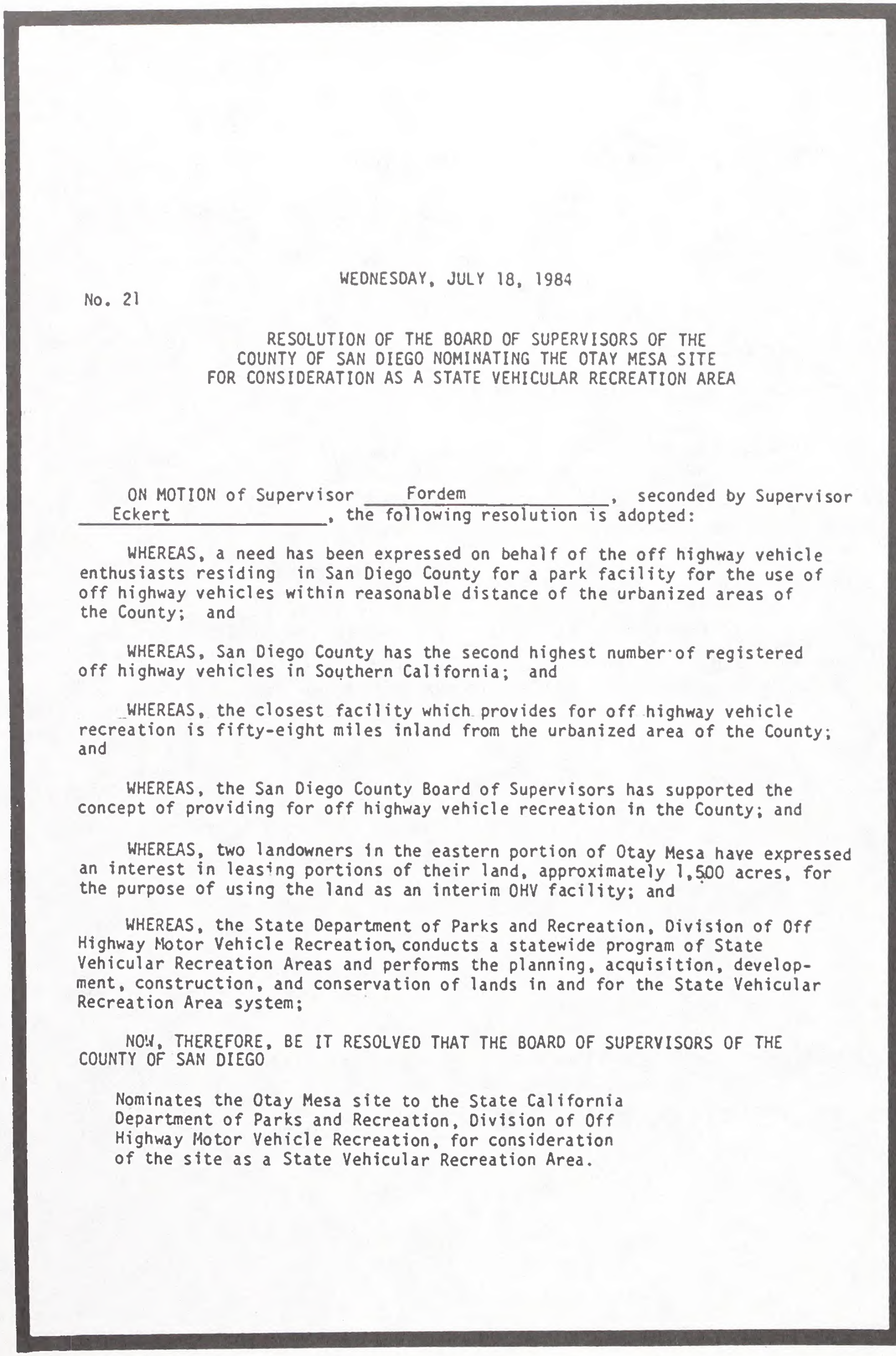
Tom Hamilton, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

TDH:TC:er

Enclosures

cc: Bob Copper, Director
County Department of Parks and Recreation
Theresa Cherniak
Department of Planning and Land Use

bcc: DONA TRUMBLE
CLERK/B/S



WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1984

No. 21

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NOMINATING THE OTAY MESA SITE
FOR CONSIDERATION AS A STATE VEHICULAR RECREATION AREA

ON MOTION of Supervisor Fordem, seconded by Supervisor Eckert, the following resolution is adopted:

WHEREAS, a need has been expressed on behalf of the off highway vehicle enthusiasts residing in San Diego County for a park facility for the use of off highway vehicles within reasonable distance of the urbanized areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, San Diego County has the second highest number of registered off highway vehicles in Southern California; and

WHEREAS, the closest facility which provides for off highway vehicle recreation is fifty-eight miles inland from the urbanized area of the County; and

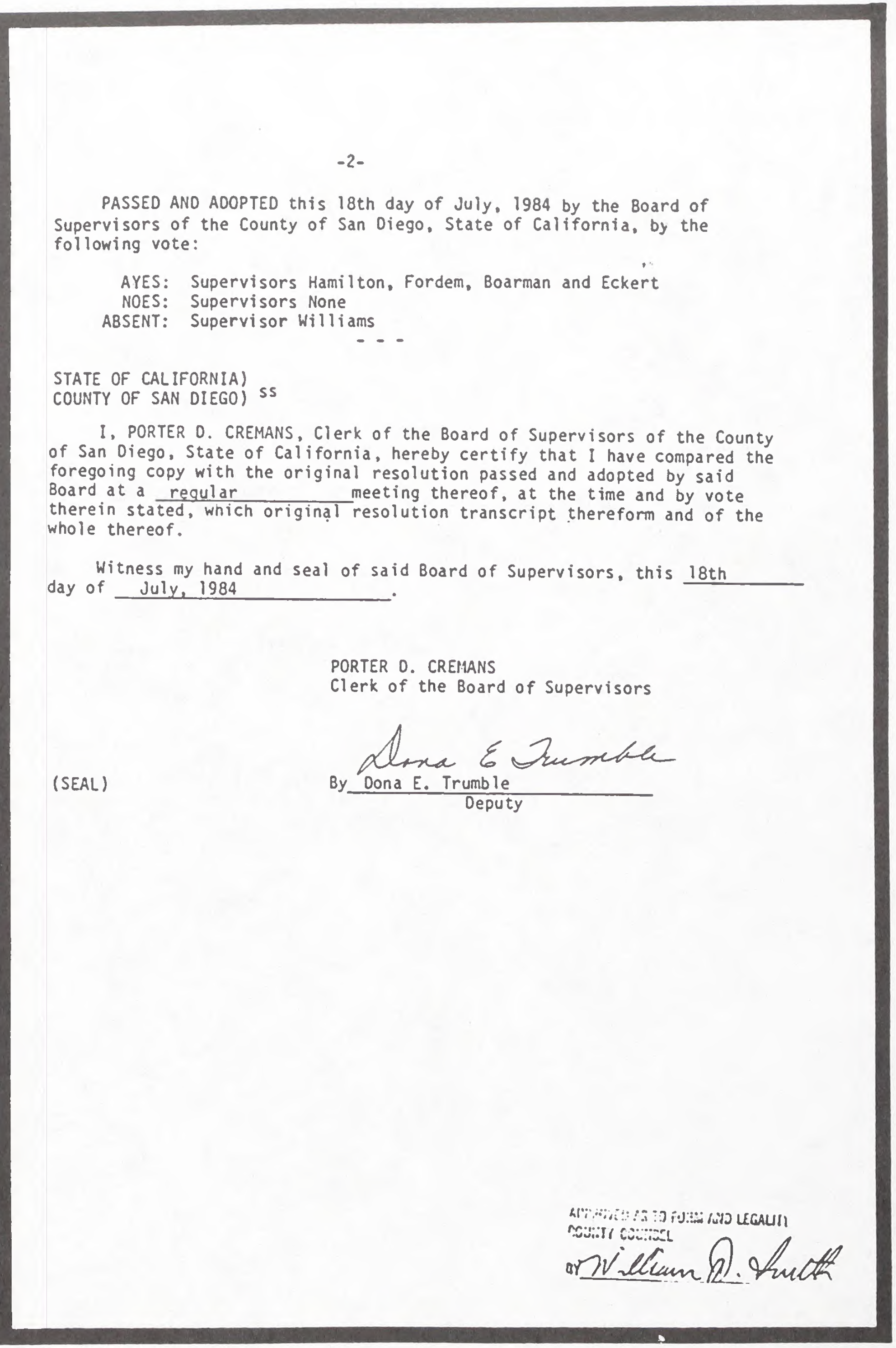
WHEREAS, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors has supported the concept of providing for off highway vehicle recreation in the County; and

WHEREAS, two landowners in the eastern portion of Otay Mesa have expressed an interest in leasing portions of their land, approximately 1,500 acres, for the purpose of using the land as an interim OHV facility; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation, conducts a statewide program of State Vehicular Recreation Areas and performs the planning, acquisition, development, construction, and conservation of lands in and for the State Vehicular Recreation Area system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Nominates the Otay Mesa site to the State California Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation, for consideration of the site as a State Vehicular Recreation Area.



-2-

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of July, 1984 by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Hamilton, Fordem, Boarman and Eckert
NOES: Supervisors None
ABSENT: Supervisor Williams

- - -

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO) ss

I, PORTER D. CREMANS, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego, State of California, hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy with the original resolution passed and adopted by said Board at a regular meeting thereof, at the time and by vote therein stated, which original resolution transcript therefrom and of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal of said Board of Supervisors, this 18th day of July, 1984.

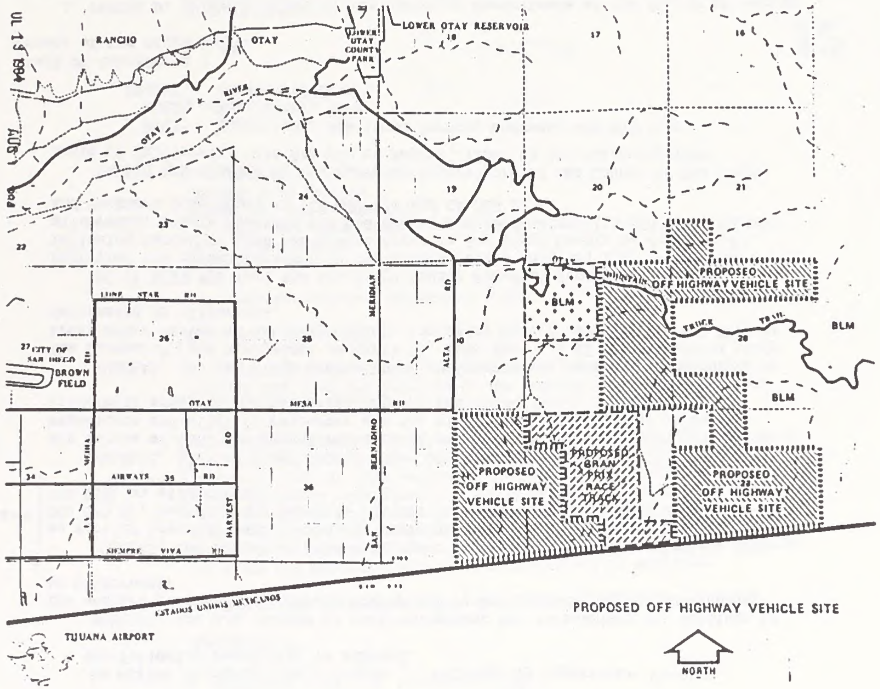
PORTER D. CREMANS
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Dona E. Trumble

(SEAL)

By Dona E. Trumble
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
COUNTY COUNSEL
BY William D. Smith



PROPOSED OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE SITE

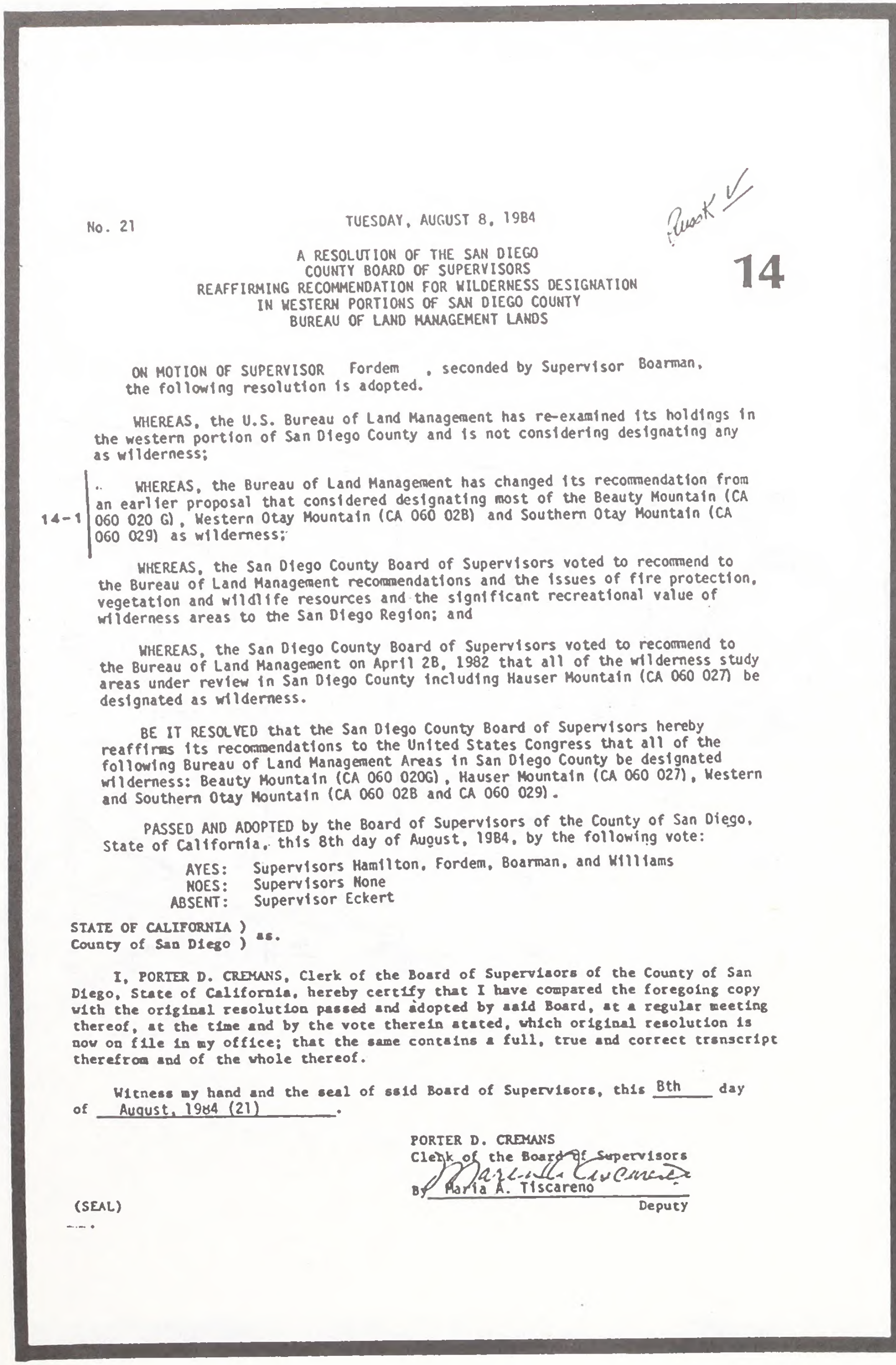
RESOLUTION 28-84*
Adopted by the
Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Commission
at its regular meeting in San Diego on
July 28, 1984

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes the acute need for an OHV park in San Diego County; and

WHEREAS, the Otay Mesa area appears to be somewhat suitable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission directs staff to negotiate with the County of San Diego on the terms for preparation of a feasibility study and to impress upon them the urgency thereof.

*Resolution subject to final approval during the Commission's meeting in September of 1984.



No. 21 TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1984

Rusk ✓

14

A RESOLUTION OF THE SAN DIEGO
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REAFFIRMING RECOMMENDATION FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION
IN WESTERN PORTIONS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LANDS

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR Fordem , seconded by Supervisor Boarman, the following resolution is adopted.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has re-examined its holdings in the western portion of San Diego County and is not considering designating any as wilderness;

14-1 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management has changed its recommendation from an earlier proposal that considered designating most of the Beauty Mountain (CA 060 020 G), Western Otay Mountain (CA 060 028) and Southern Otay Mountain (CA 060 029) as wilderness;

WHEREAS, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors voted to recommend to the Bureau of Land Management recommendations and the issues of fire protection, vegetation and wildlife resources and the significant recreational value of wilderness areas to the San Diego Region; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors voted to recommend to the Bureau of Land Management on April 28, 1982 that all of the wilderness study areas under review in San Diego County including Hauser Mountain (CA 060 027) be designated as wilderness.

BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors hereby reaffirms its recommendations to the United States Congress that all of the following Bureau of Land Management Areas in San Diego County be designated wilderness: Beauty Mountain (CA 060 020G), Hauser Mountain (CA 060 027), Western and Southern Otay Mountain (CA 060 028 and CA 060 029).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego, State of California, this 8th day of August, 1984, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Hamilton, Fordem, Boarman, and Williams
NOES: Supervisors None
ABSENT: Supervisor Eckert

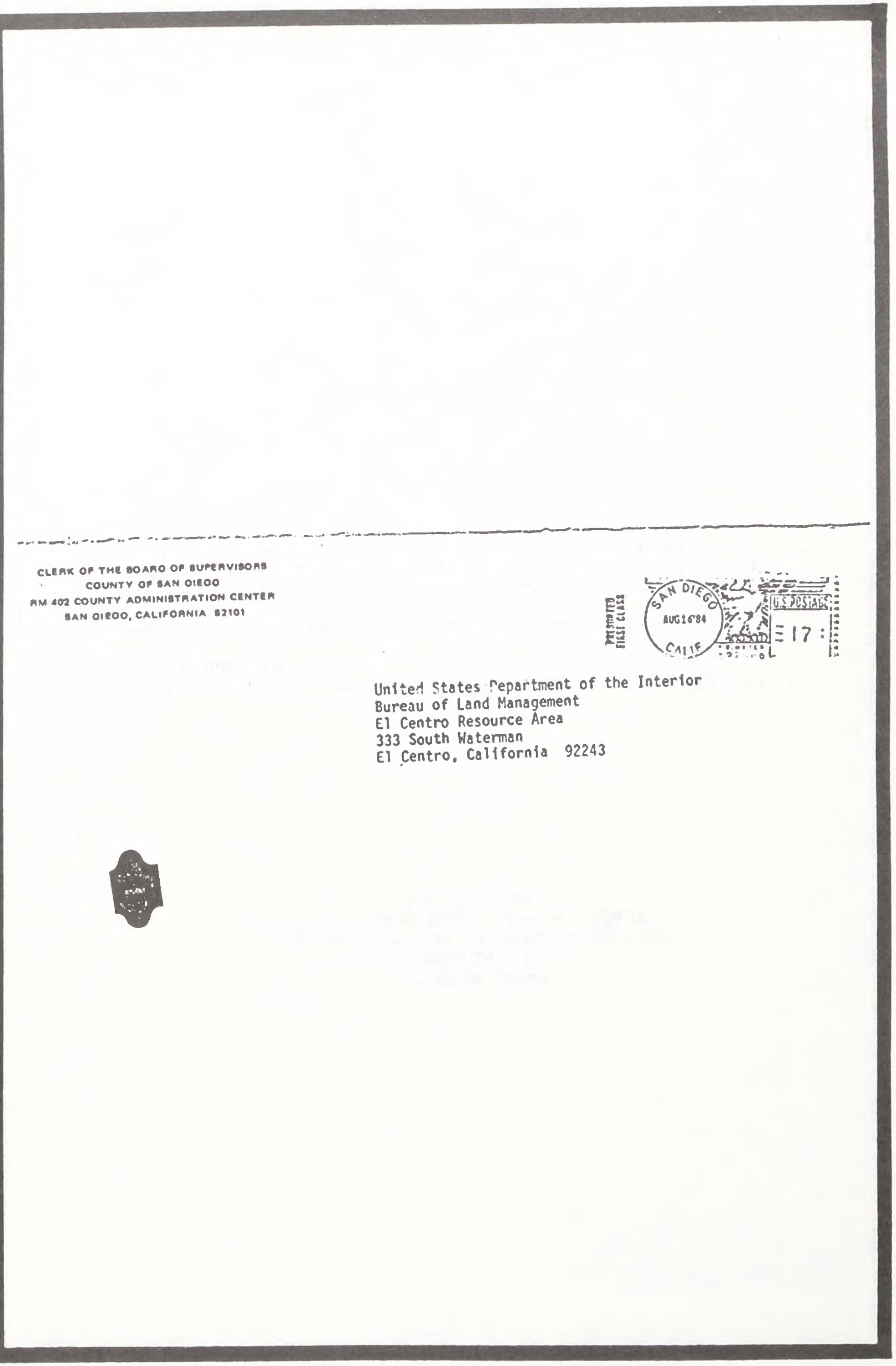
STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
County of San Diego) ss.

I, PORTER D. CREMANS, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego, State of California, hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy with the original resolution passed and adopted by said Board, at a regular meeting thereof, at the time and by the vote therein stated, which original resolution is now on file in my office; that the same contains a full, true and correct transcript therefrom and of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and the seal of said Board of Supervisors, this 8th day of August, 1984 (21) .

PORTER D. CREMANS
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
By Maria A. Tiscareno
Maria A. Tiscareno
Deputy

(SEAL)



CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
RM 402 COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 82101

PRESORTED FIRST CLASS
SAN DIEGO AUG 16 '84 CALIF
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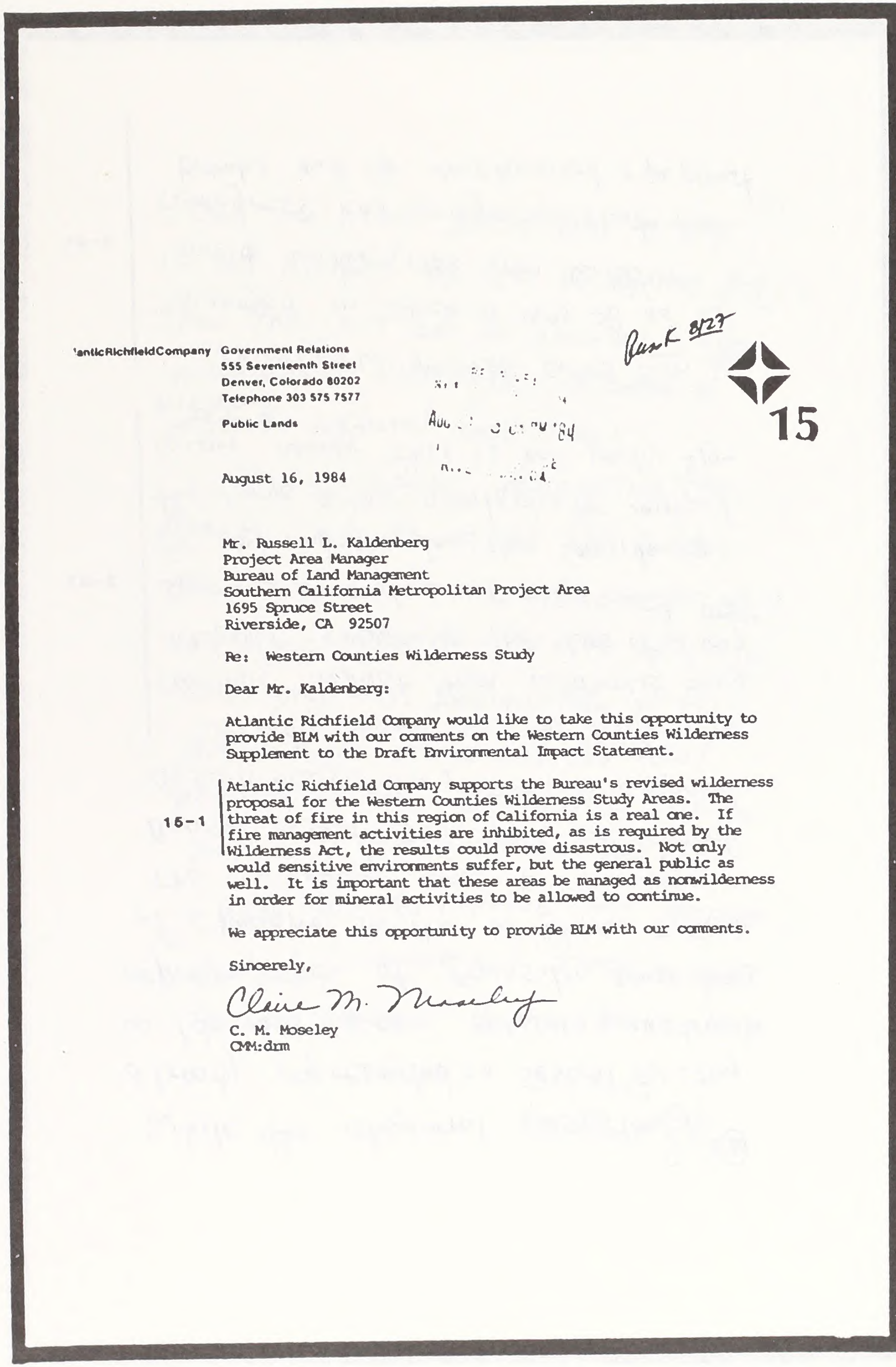
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
El Centro Resource Area
333 South Waterman
El Centro, California 92243



antlcRichfieldCompany Government Relations
555 Seventeenth Street
Denver, Colorado 80202
Telephone 303 575 7577

Public Lands

Rusk 8/27

15

August 16, 1984

Mr. Russell L. Kaldenberg
Project Area Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Southern California Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Re: Western Counties Wilderness Study

Dear Mr. Kaldenberg:

Atlantic Richfield Company would like to take this opportunity to provide BLM with our comments on the Western Counties Wilderness Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

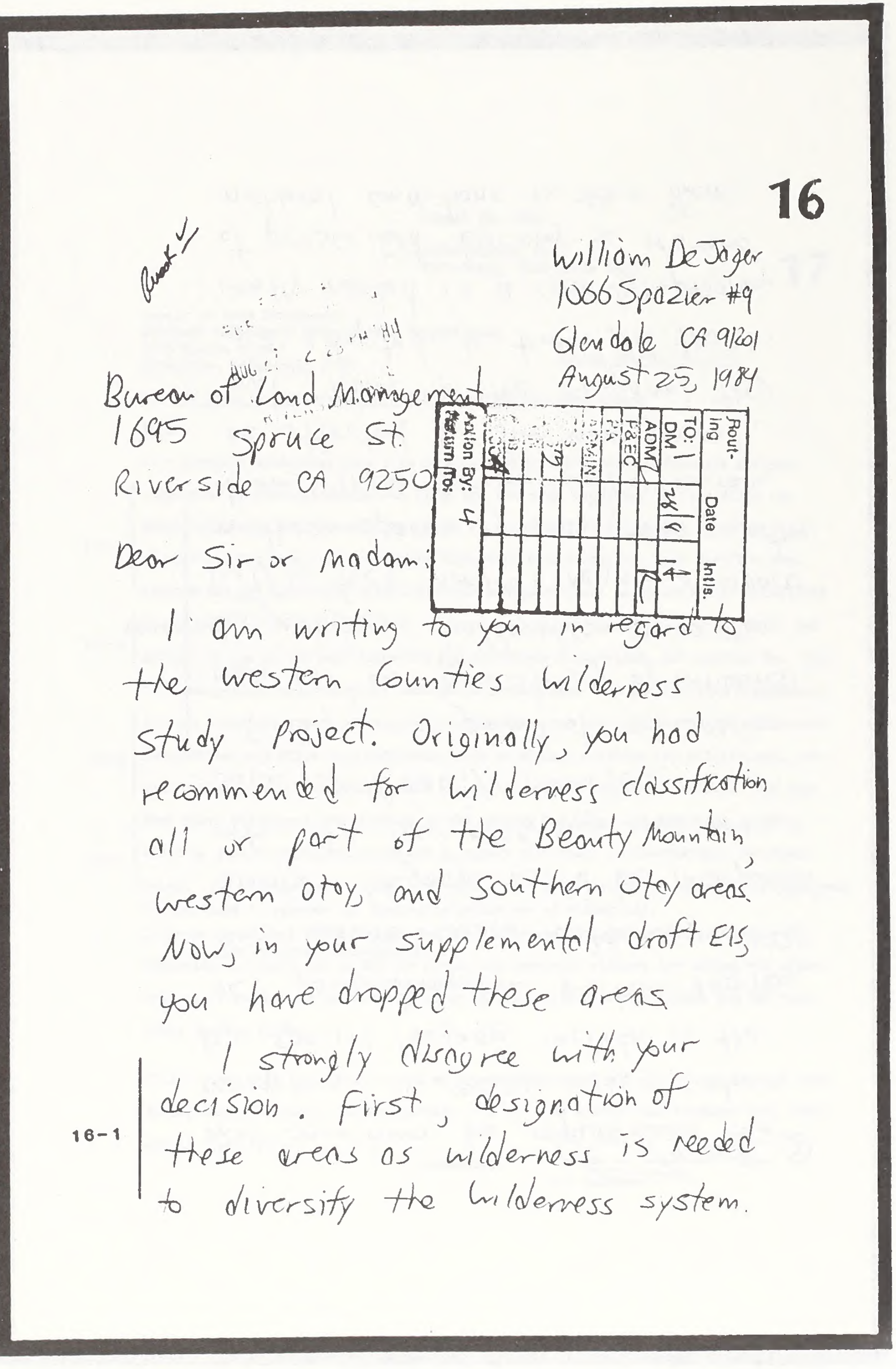
15-1 Atlantic Richfield Company supports the Bureau's revised wilderness proposal for the Western Counties Wilderness Study Areas. The threat of fire in this region of California is a real one. If fire management activities are inhibited, as is required by the Wilderness Act, the results could prove disastrous. Not only would sensitive environments suffer, but the general public as well. It is important that these areas be managed as nonwilderness in order for mineral activities to be allowed to continue.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide BLM with our comments.

Sincerely,

Claire M. Moseley

C. M. Moseley
CMM:drm



16

Rusk ✓

William DeJager
1066 Spazier #9
Glendale CA 91201
August 25, 1984

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[illegible]SO 4		
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Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce St
Riverside CA 9250

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you in regard to the western Counties Wilderness Study Project. Originally, you had recommended for Wilderness classification all or part of the Beauty Mountain, western otay, and Southern Otay areas. Now, in your supplemental draft EIS, you have dropped these areas.

16-1 I strongly disagree with your decision. First, designation of these areas as wilderness is needed to diversify the wilderness system.

while the chaparral ecosystem is already represented in Several existing wilderness areas, there is inadaquate representation of Peninsular Range forms of chaparral in the wilderness system. The wilderness areas within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park are primarily desert ecosystems, rather than chaparral.

16-2 Secondly, there will be little or no economic impact from wilderness designations, except for the loss of a very small percentage of the counties involved for oil and gas leasing. Considering the large areas available for mineral leasing nearby, this is not really significant.

16-3 Thirdly, wilderness areas can be managed in such a way so as to avoid undue risk from wildfire. Congress has recognized that fire-breaks and/or mechanized equipment may sometimes be required for fire management in certain areas, as shown by special language included in the act designating the Ventana addition and Santa Lucia Wilderness in 1978. Similar language could be incorporated into the law regarding new areas such as Beauty Mountain.

16-4 Finally, management of rare species need not be hamstrung by wilderness designations. Wilderness designation will in fact prevent negative impacts on these species by man, thus protecting them. These species will of course be affected by fire management, but living in the chaparral, they are adapted to fire. All that is really needed is a careful program of prescribed burning to restore natural conditions in these areas

(4)

If you feel that prescribed burning is not allowed by the Wilderness Act, then the act can be amended to allow management activities intended to restore natural conditions.

To summarize, designating the Beauty Mountain and the 2 Otay Mountain areas as wilderness will not have negative impacts if it is done properly. Designation of these areas will round out the local portion of the wilderness system and will protect rare species. I urge you to reverse your decision and to recommend these areas for wilderness designation.

Sincerely,

William E. Jago

RX ✓

17

August 25, 1984

29900 Highway 20
Fort Bragg, California 95437

Bureau of Land Management
Southern California Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

Public Hearing Record

RE: San Diego and Riverside Counties Wilderness Recommendations

BLM:

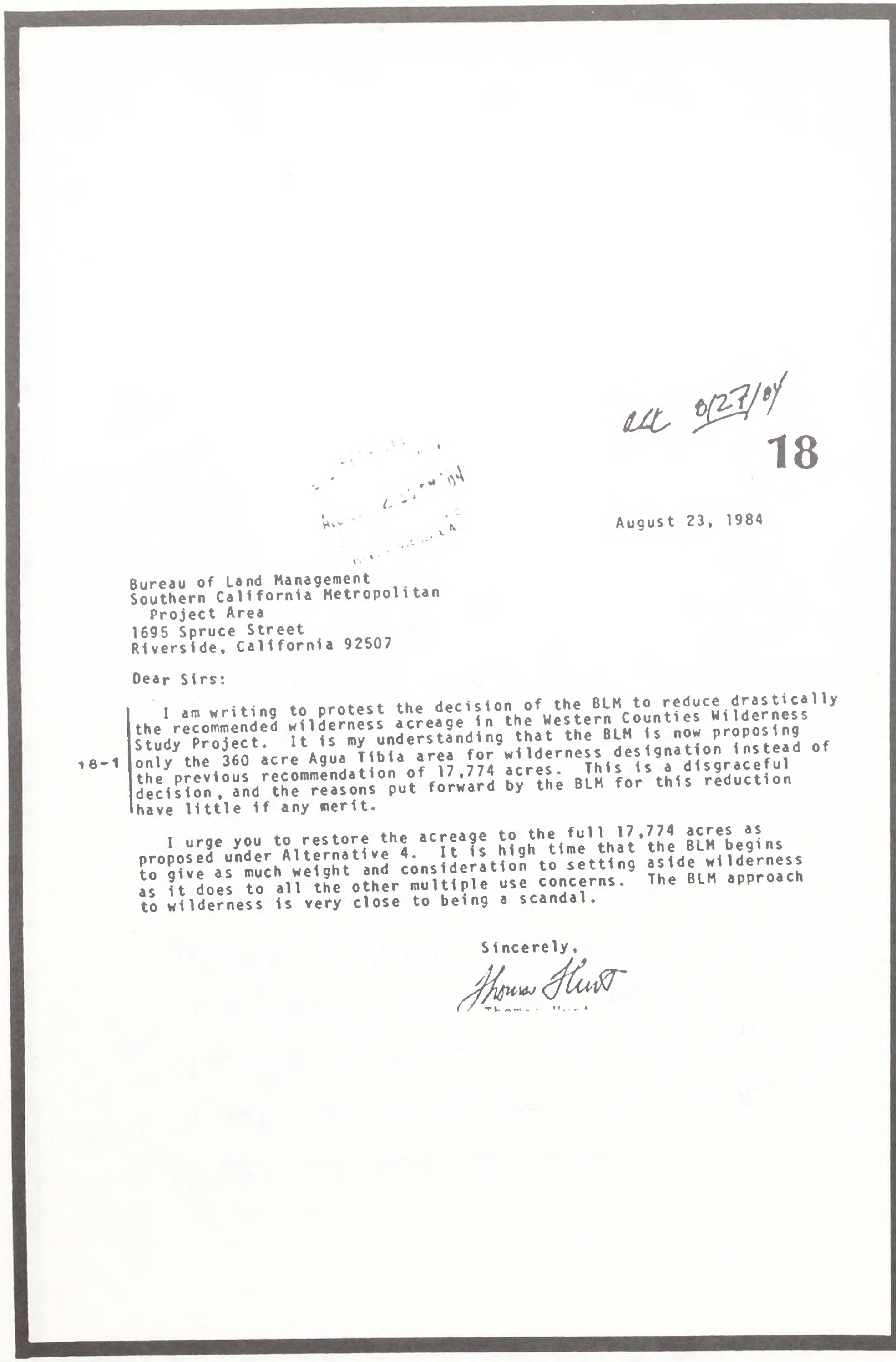
As a frequent wilderness user I am disappointed in BLM's retreat from its original 17-1 wilderness recommendations in San Diego and Riverside counties. I find BLM's ostensible reasons for recommending almost no wilderness at all deeply unsatisfying and not ringing true. In many other wilderness situations, the need for fire management has not interfered with wilderness management, and is specifically authorized by Congress in the Wilderness Act. 17-2 The presence of endangered species of plants and animals is one of the best arguments for wilderness designation, not against it. Special management regulations for endangered species have been successfully implemented in many other wilderness areas. 17-3 ACEC designations are not substitutes for wilderness designation, and allow many activities such as mining, drilling for oil and gas, off-road vehicle use, and logging, which are destructive of wilderness values. 17-4 The fact that State Wilderness exists close to the subject San Diego and Riverside counties WSA's is just no valid reason at all to reject wilderness recommendations for these areas. The Metropolitan Project Area should be a prime candidate for maximum wilderness designations to provide for increasing public use of wilderness.

It seems to me that BLM's reasons for non-wilderness designation in San Diego and Riverside counties ARE LARGELY CONTRIVED, and if BLM can pardon one concerned citizen for making the observation, it seems that the baleful ANTI-WILDERNESS spirit of James Watt lives on within the BLM hierarchy in this matter.

Please enter into the public record my recommendations of all wilderness for the Aqua Tibia, Beauty Mountain, Hauser Mountain, and both the Western and Southern Otay Wilderness Study Areas.

Sincerely,

Ron Guenther



ack 8/27/84

18

August 23, 1984

Bureau of Land Management
Southern California Metropolitan
  Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

Dear Sirs:

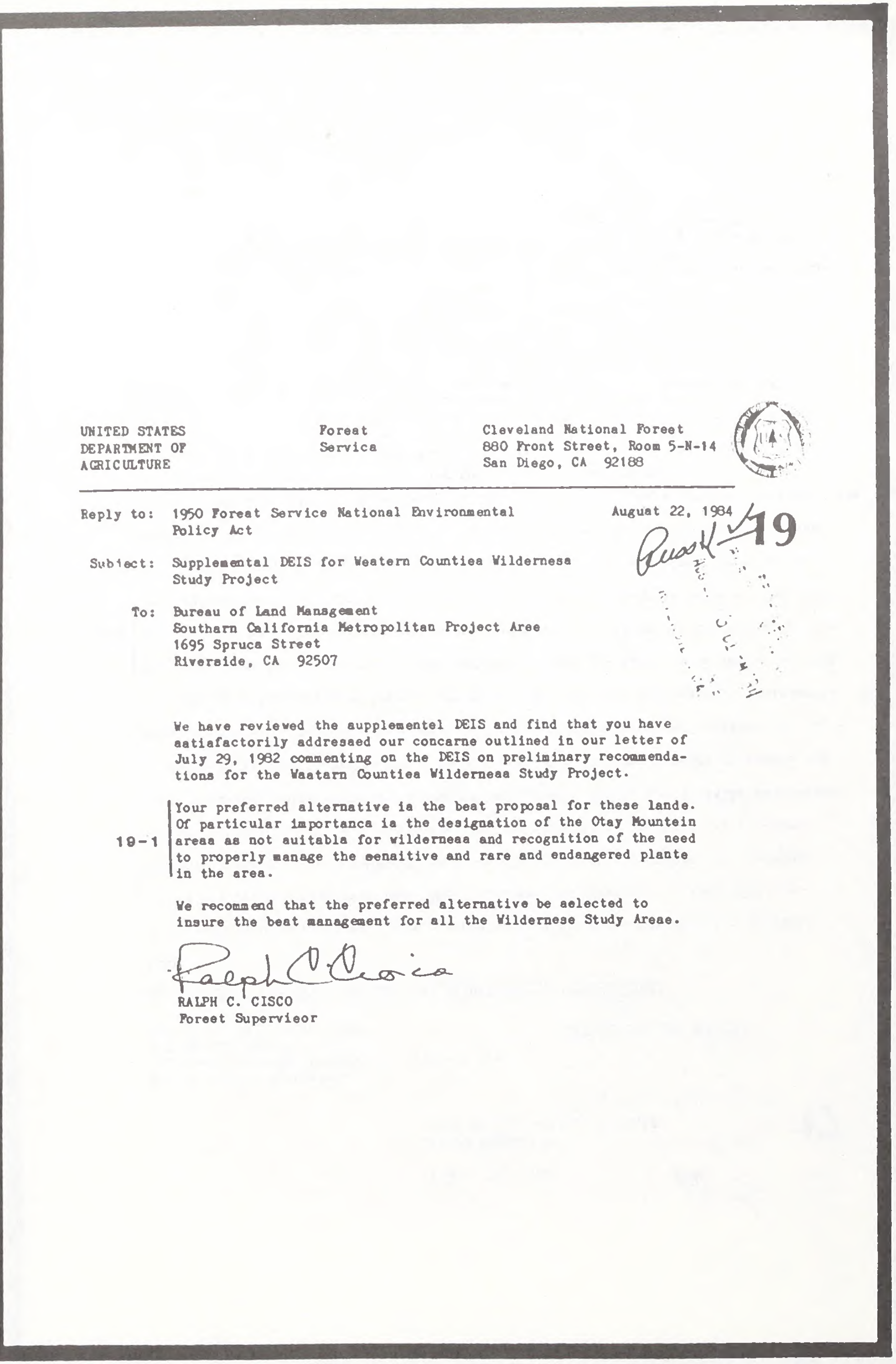
18-1 I am writing to protest the decision of the BLM to reduce drastically the recommended wilderness acreage in the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project. It is my understanding that the BLM is now proposing only the 360 acre Agua Tibia area for wilderness designation instead of the previous recommendation of 17,774 acres. This is a disgraceful decision, and the reasons put forward by the BLM for this reduction have little if any merit.

I urge you to restore the acreage to the full 17,774 acres as proposed under Alternative 4. It is high time that the BLM begins to give as much weight and consideration to setting aside wilderness as it does to all the other multiple use concerns. The BLM approach to wilderness is very close to being a scandal.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hunt

Thomas Hunt



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Forest
Service

Cleveland National Forest
880 Front Street, Room 5-N-14
San Diego, CA 92188

Reply to: 1950 Forest Service National Environmental Policy Act

August 22, 1984

Russ K ✓ **19**

Subject: Supplemental DEIS for Western Counties Wilderness Study Project

To: Bureau of Land Management
Southern California Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

We have reviewed the supplemental DEIS and find that you have satisfactorily addressed our concerns outlined in our letter of July 29, 1982 commenting on the DEIS on preliminary recommendations for the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project.

19-1 Your preferred alternative is the best proposal for these lands. Of particular importance is the designation of the Otay Mountain areas as not suitable for wilderness and recognition of the need to properly manage the sensitive and rare and endangered plants in the area.

We recommend that the preferred alternative be selected to insure the best management for all the Wilderness Study Areas.

Ralph C. Cisco
RALPH C. CISCO
Forest Supervisor

20

Jennifer A. Rigby
25311 Terreno Drive
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

CK✓

Bureau of Land Management
So California Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

August 27, 1984

Dear Sir / Madame.

20-1 I am concerned about a recent BLM decision to reverse the wilderness recommendations in San Diego and Riverside counties. The Beauty Mountain, Hauser Mountain, Western, and Southern Otay Mountain Wilderness Study Areas, recently rejected for wilderness designation, should be reinstated as WSA's, not ACEC's. Specific land use of these study areas can be determined later. My first area of concern is establishing the parcels as wilderness (WSA) to begin with.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Rigby

21

R Kohlberg ✓

AUG [illegible] PM 84

3811 Bluff Pl.
San Pedro, CA
90731

August 26, 1984

Bureau of Land Management
So. Calif. Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce St.
Riverside CA 92507

Dear Sirs,

Great Scot! Please toss that revised EIS for the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project into the round file and adopt Alternative 4 for ALL WSAs.

21-1 Fire danger has not prevented successful wilderness management.

Wilderness designation itself is the best protection for endangered plants and animals.

21-2 ACEC is NOT a satisfactory substitute for wilderness designation.

The proximity of State Wilderness is the best of reasons to add, not remove, the Beauty Mountains wilderness.

What you mange to save is all that we and future generations are going to have- forever. Be bold. Please.

Sincerely,

Goldie Otters

Goldie Otters

Comnt ✓

22

143 Del Monte Ave
Los Altos, Ca 94022
Aug. 26, 1984

AUG 27 1 5 PM '84

BLM
Southern California Metro Project Area
1695 Spruce St.
Riverside, Ca 92507

Dear Sir:

I am writing regarding BLM's recent — and I might add — unprecedented — decision calling for 360 acres of wilderness in San Diego and Riverside counties instead of the previous recommendation of 17,774 acres.

22-1 I find your charge of fear unacceptable! Your agency's argument that wilderness prevents fire control is incorrect. As you know the Wilderness Act recognizes the need for using mechanized equipment for fire control in emergencies. Many areas in California have high fire danger and are still successfully managed as wilderness.

22-2 Endangered species and plants should not be a reason to reject Wilderness, but to support it! There is a long history of special management regulations for endangered species within wilderness areas.

22-3 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are not a substitute for Wilderness, for they don't offer similar protection!

I believe that the best alternative — the one supported by the public throughout California is Alternative 4 — all wilderness. Congress can then determine the best management for each area.

Sincerely-

John Miller

Russ K ✓

23

ROGER HEDGECOCK
MAYOR

August 23, 1984

Russell L. Kaldenberg, Project Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Southern California Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Dear Mr. Kaldenberg:

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS): WESTERN COUNTIES WILDERNESS STUDY PROJECT

The City of San Diego has reviewed the above-referenced document, which addresses possible wilderness designations for four major areas comprising 33,221 acres in San Diego and Riverside Counties. The comments in this letter will be directed to the 16,390 acres located in southern San Diego County, which includes the Western Otay Mountain and Southern Otay Mountain Wilderness Study Areas.

The Western Otay Mountain Wilderness Study Area is located approximately 3 miles east of the existing City boundary near Brown Field and 1.5 miles east of land proposed for annexation. The mesa is proposed for future development as a major industrial center. Administrative actions on Otay Mountain considered under the wilderness proposal will not have a significant direct effect on the City. However, the City is supportive of measures which would preserve the natural resource values of the Otay Mountain area, an area which forms a topographical and natural greenbelt to contain the limits of urbanization. The area will likely never be urbanized, and hence it should be designated to allow for maximum protection.

23-1 The City has considered the pros and cons of designating these areas as wilderness. It is our conclusion that the wilderness designation would result in greater assurance of preservation of the natural resources on Otay Mountain. Six issues identified in the Supplemental Draft EIS are wilderness, recreation, fire, minerals, sensitive plants, and national security. A brief discussion of each issue is presented below:

CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 202 C STREET, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101 (619) 236-6330

Wilderness/Recreation

The Otay Mountain area is an extensive natural open space area with rugged topography, outstanding views, and relative isolation from urban uses. The area is considered appropriate for one to encounter a wilderness experience. As noted in the draft EIS, the area currently receives light hunting and hiking use, and is occasionally used by botanists and photographers interested in the unique vegetative assemblage and views to the north, south and west. These types of uses are appropriate in an area with rugged topography, natural vegetation, and sensitive plant resources. These uses would be facilitated by the wilderness designation. The separation of the area into two wilderness study areas as proposed under the wilderness alternative allows retention of the primary road through the area. The road would continue to function as the international fire break and would provide access to the transmission facilities atop Otay Mountain.

Fire

The potential disadvantage to the wilderness designation is that certain fire management techniques could not be utilized. These include establishment and maintenance of fuelbreaks, establishment of grasses, physical manipulation of vegetation, and use of mechanized equipment. While the wilderness designation would preclude the more intense fire fighting techniques, prescribed burning and handtools can still be utilized for pre- and post-suppression activities. It should be noted that a goal of the wilderness designation is to allow ecosystems to function by natural plant succession following fires. The Otay Mountain area is a natural, isolated area in which the implementation of this goal is appropriate.

One of the major concerns cited in the draft EIS regarding fire danger in this area is potential damage to communication facilities. The location of these facilities is not shown on a map in the EIS, although it is our impression that these facilities are located atop Otay Mountain adjacent to access roads, and that some of the facilities are outside the wilderness study areas. A more detailed discussion of these facilities including a map of their location is needed in order for the City to be convinced that the wilderness designation would significantly impair protection of these facilities from fire. 23-2

Minerals

23-3 The draft EIS states that access roads to future mineral operations would degrade the visual quality of the area, increase erosion, and impair the area's solitude and opportunities for primitive and unconfined forms of recreation. Impacts to sensitive plant species could also occur. These impacts would be lessened by the prohibition of new mineral claims under the wilderness designation.

Biology

The most significant resources in the Otay Mountain Wilderness Areas are the sensitive plant species. The City's experience with management of rare plant species is that the best management of sensitive species is preservation. However, the draft EIS states the following:

> "Wilderness designation may not be flexible enough to provide protection to the sensitive plants and meet the goals of the Endangered Species Act. This is because the management of and research concerning these species could require such techniques as scarification of soil using mechanized equipment, the use of herbicides, and prescribed burning to limit vegetation to primary or early successional stages. These techniques are generally incompatible with wilderness management."

23-4 The City does not concur with the conclusions that these management techniques are necessary. It should also be noted that deletion of the wilderness designation could result in impacts to sensitive plants from mining development, road construction, and extensive vegetation clearing. The need for management techniques not allowed under wilderness designations should be documented. It is suggested that you contact Dr. Paul Zedler at the Ecology Department at San Diego State University. Dr. Zedler is currently conducting studies on Tecate Cypress and other sensitive species on Otay Mountain.

National Security

The national security issue involves permission for the Border Patrol to operate vehicles in the area and to construct new roads as

23-5 appropriate. Based on the extreme topography and our knowledge of Border Patrol activities in this area, the wilderness designation would cause only minor changes in the present methods used by the Border Patrol. A more detailed discussion of the type and frequency of occurrence of the methods used by the Border Patrol to control the influx of illegal aliens would be helpful in assessing this issue.

Summary

Based on the evidence in the Supplemental Draft EIS concerning the above issues, and our interest in protecting the natural resources of the area for future generations, the City of San Diego supports the wilderness designation (Alternatives three and four) for the Southern and Western Otay Mountain Wilderness Study Areas. We feel that designation of the area as wilderness is in the best interests of the people of San Diego as well as the public at large.

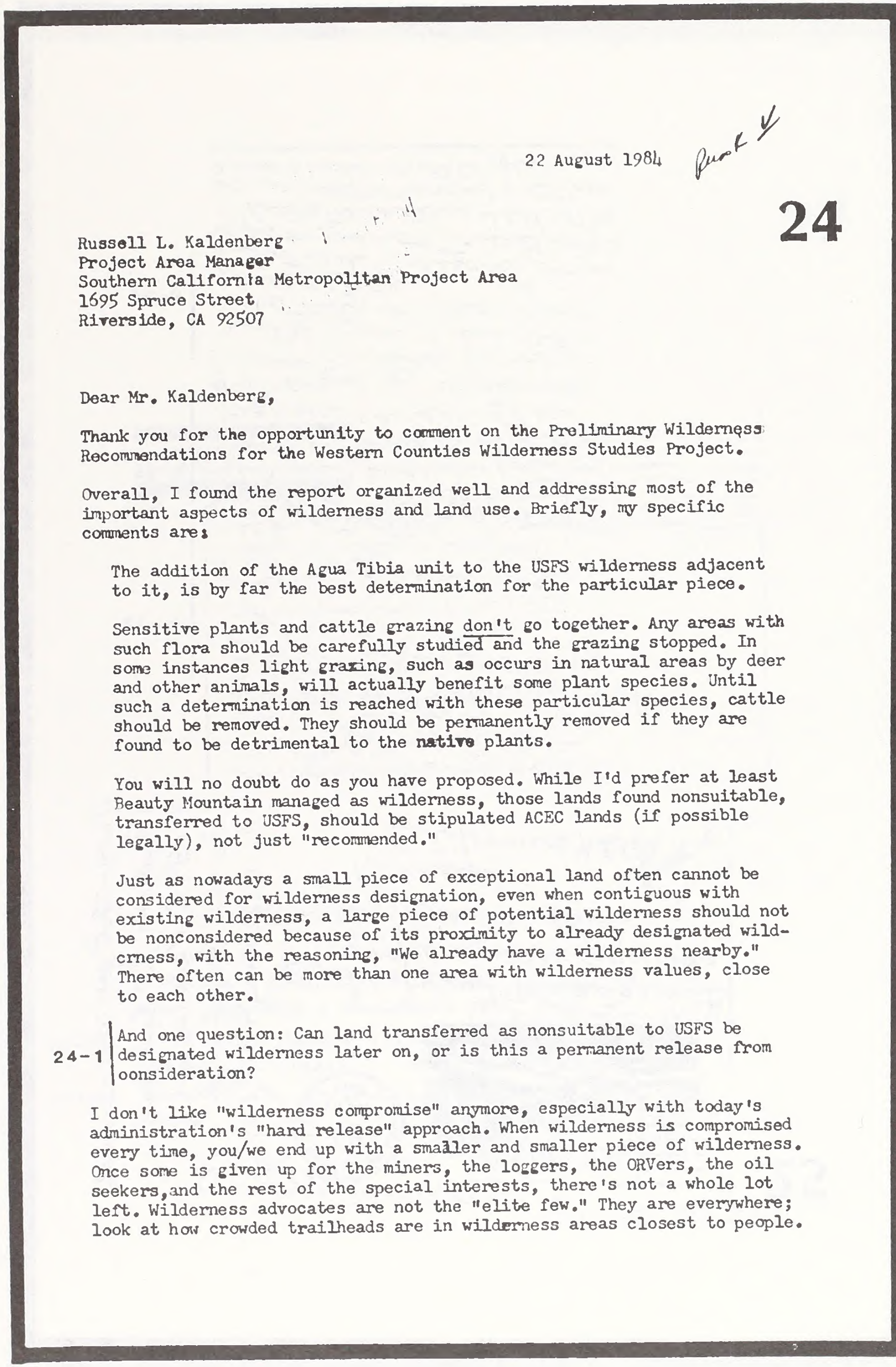
The City of San Diego thanks you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. Please contact Allen M. Jones, Deputy Director, City Planning Department (619) 236-5775 or Dave Nielsen of my staff (619) 236-6330 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Roger Hedgecock

Roger Hedgecock
Mayor
City of San Diego

RH/lg



22 August 1984 Russ ✓

24

Russell L. Kaldenberg
Project Area Manager
Southern California Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Dear Mr. Kaldenberg,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Preliminary Wilderness Recommendations for the Western Counties Wilderness Studies Project.

Overall, I found the report organized well and addressing most of the important aspects of wilderness and land use. Briefly, my specific comments are:

The addition of the Agua Tibia unit to the USFS wilderness adjacent to it, is by far the best determination for the particular piece.

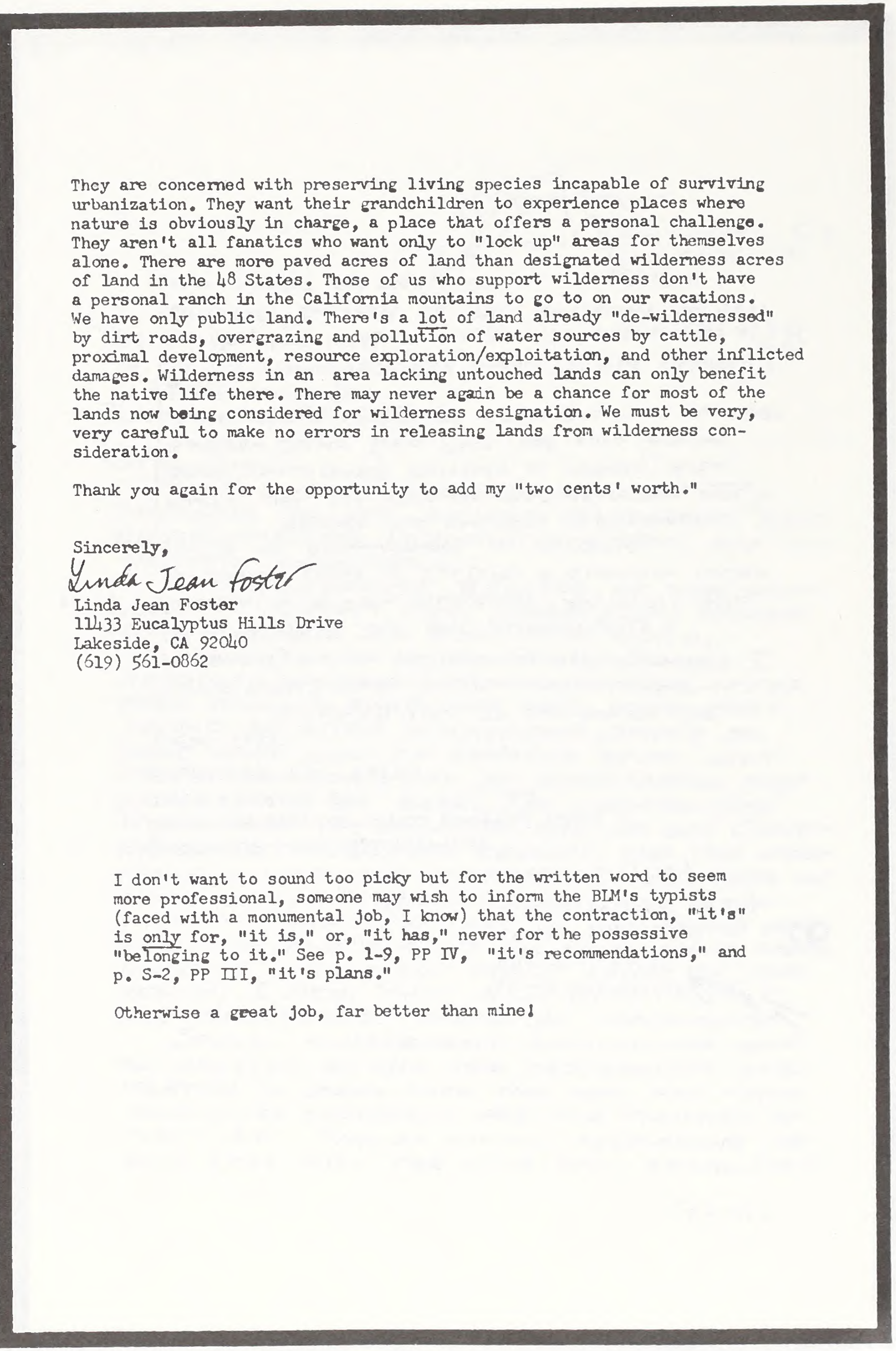
Sensitive plants and cattle grazing don't go together. Any areas with such flora should be carefully studied and the grazing stopped. In some instances light grazing, such as occurs in natural areas by deer and other animals, will actually benefit some plant species. Until such a determination is reached with these particular species, cattle should be removed. They should be permanently removed if they are found to be detrimental to the native plants.

You will no doubt do as you have proposed. While I'd prefer at least Beauty Mountain managed as wilderness, those lands found nonsuitable, transferred to USFS, should be stipulated ACEC lands (if possible legally), not just "recommended."

Just as nowadays a small piece of exceptional land often cannot be considered for wilderness designation, even when contiguous with existing wilderness, a large piece of potential wilderness should not be nonconsidered because of its proximity to already designated wilderness, with the reasoning, "We already have a wilderness nearby." There often can be more than one area with wilderness values, close to each other.

24-1 And one question: Can land transferred as nonsuitable to USFS be designated wilderness later on, or is this a permanent release from consideration?

I don't like "wilderness compromise" anymore, especially with today's administration's "hard release" approach. When wilderness is compromised every time, you/we end up with a smaller and smaller piece of wilderness. Once some is given up for the miners, the loggers, the ORVers, the oil seekers, and the rest of the special interests, there's not a whole lot left. Wilderness advocates are not the "elite few." They are everywhere; look at how crowded trailheads are in wilderness areas closest to people.



They are concerned with preserving living species incapable of surviving urbanization. They want their grandchildren to experience places where nature is obviously in charge, a place that offers a personal challenge. They aren't all fanatics who want only to "lock up" areas for themselves alone. There are more paved acres of land than designated wilderness acres of land in the 48 States. Those of us who support wilderness don't have a personal ranch in the California mountains to go to on our vacations. We have only public land. There's a lot of land already "de-wildernessed" by dirt roads, overgrazing and pollution of water sources by cattle, proximal development, resource exploration/exploitation, and other inflicted damages. Wilderness in an area lacking untouched lands can only benefit the native life there. There may never again be a chance for most of the lands now being considered for wilderness designation. We must be very, very careful to make no errors in releasing lands from wilderness consideration.

Thank you again for the opportunity to add my "two cents' worth."

Sincerely,
Linda Jean Foster
Linda Jean Foster
11433 Eucalyptus Hills Drive
Lakeside, CA 92040
(619) 561-0862

I don't want to sound too picky but for the written word to seem more professional, someone may wish to inform the BLM's typists (faced with a monumental job, I know) that the contraction, "it's" is only for, "it is," or, "it has," never for the possessive "belonging to it." See p. 1-9, PP IV, "it's recommendations," and p. S-2, PP III, "it's plans."

Otherwise a great job, far better than mine!

25

I hope that you will reconsider

Marion L. Sanford
131 E. Valerio St.
Santa Barbara
California 93101

Rec'd ✓

SANTA BARBARA, CA 931
PM
28 AUG
1984

ALWAYS USE ZIP CODE
USA 13c
Olympics 84

Bureau of Land Management
So. Cal. Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside
California 92507

© USPS 1983

The reasons given for
rejecting the several
recommended wilder-
ness are not plausible.
25-1 Endangered plants are
in no [illegible]
not a reason to reject
wilderness designation.
2 The wilderness act
allows the use of equip-
ment in certain emer-
25-2 gencies, such as fire con-
trol. Many [illegible]
[illegible] It is
[illegible] as wilderness.
3 Areas of critical environ-
mental concern are not a
25-3 substitute for wilderness
designation.
4 That state wilderness [illegible]
is poor reason to reject [illegible]
5 Best alternative — all 17,774
acres recommended & let Con-
gress decide what is best. [illegible]

26

Rec'd K ✓

WM. J. LADEN
10481 SCENIC BLVD.
CUPERTINO CA 95014

AUGUST 24, 1984

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SO. CALIF. METROPOLITAN PROJECT AREA
1695 SPRUCE ST.
RIVERSIDE CA 92507

DEAR SIRS:

I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THE "SUPPLEMENTAL" DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE WESTERN COUNTIES WILDERNESS STUDY PROJECT. THE BEST ALTERNATIVE IS ALTERNATIVE 4 - ALL WILDERNESS. ALL 17,774 ACRES OF ROADLESS AREAS IN SAN DIEGO & RIVERSIDE COUNTIES SHOULD BE RECOMMENDED AS SUITABLE.

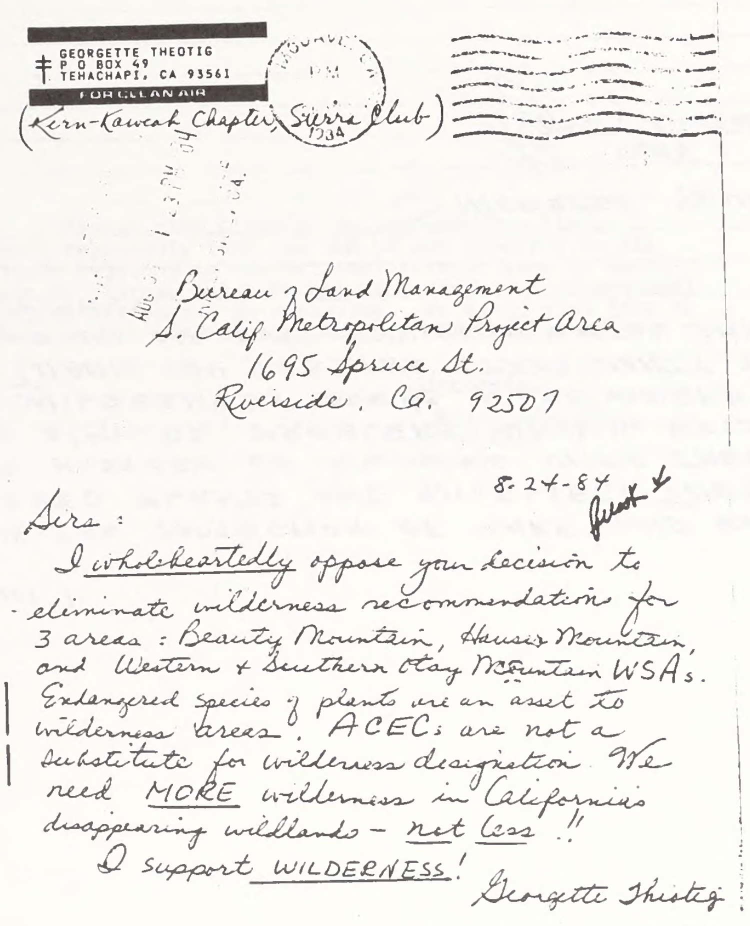
26-1 NEITHER THE EXISTENCE OF ENDANGERED PLANTS, NOR THE NEED FOR FIRE PROTECTION, NOR "BETTER" WILDERNESS EXISTING IN NEARBY ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK ARE GOOD REASONS FOR REJECTING WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THESE AREAS.

BEAUTY MT. WSA, HAUSER MT. WSA, & WESTERN & SO. OTAY MT. WSA'S SHOULD ALL BE RECOMMENDED AS SUITABLE. CONGRESS CAN THEN DETERMINE THE BEST MANAGEMENT FOR EACH AREA!

SINCERELY,

William J. Laden

27



GEORGETTE THEOTIG
P O BOX 49
TEHACHAPI, CA 93561
FOR CLEAN AIR
(Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Sierra Club)

Bureau of Land Management
S. Calif. Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce St.
Riverside, Ca. 92507

8-24-84

Sirs:

I wholeheartedly oppose your decision to eliminate wilderness recommendation for 3 areas: Beauty Mountain, Hauser Mountain, and Western + Southern Otay Mountain WSAs.

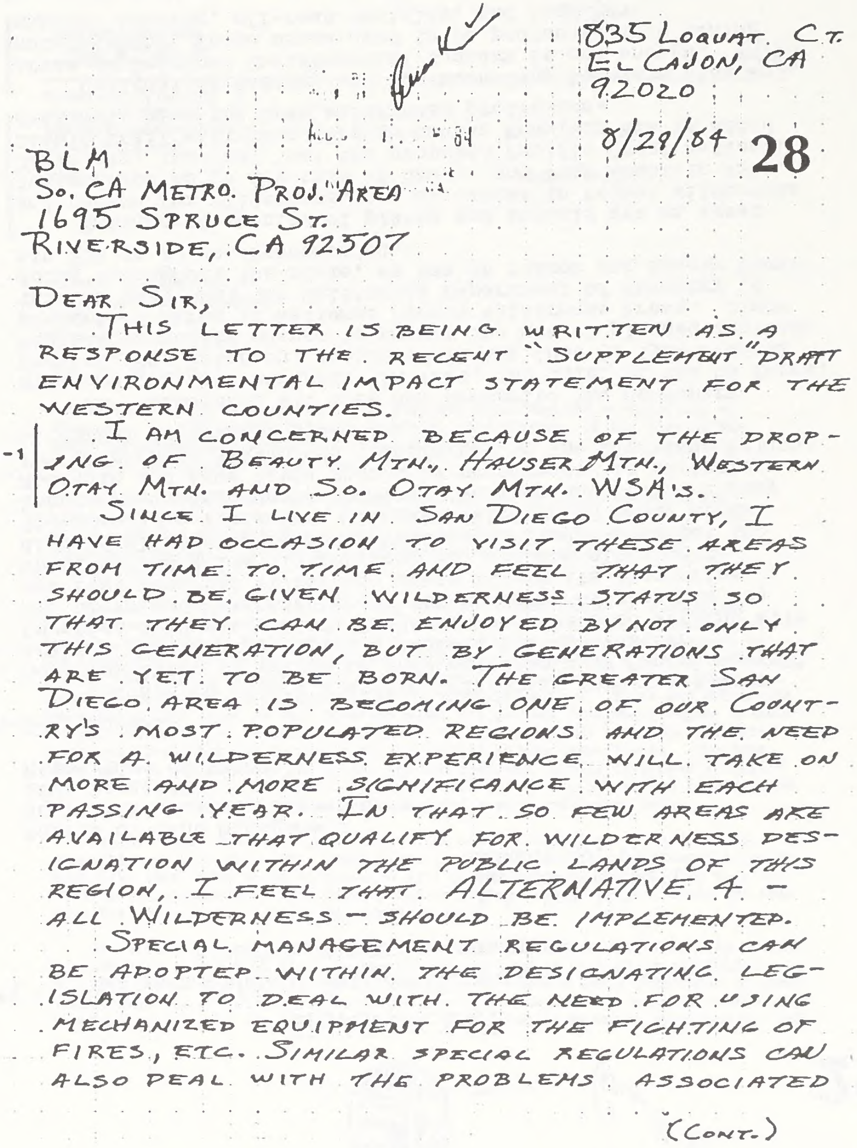
27-1 | Endangered species of plants are an asset to wilderness areas. ACECs are not a

27-2 | substitute for wilderness designation. We need MORE wilderness in California's disappearing wildlands - not less!!

I support WILDERNESS!

Georgette Theotig

28



835 Loquat Ct.
El Cajon, CA
92020

8/29/84

AUG 1 1984

BLM
So. CA Metro. Proj. Area
1695 Spruce St.
Riverside, CA 92507

Dear Sir,

This letter is being written as a response to the recent "Supplement" Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Western Counties.

28-1 | I am concerned because of the dropping of Beauty Mtn., Hauser Mtn., Western Otay Mtn. and So. Otay Mtn. WSA's.

Since I live in San Diego County, I have had occasion to visit these areas from time to time and feel that they should be given wilderness status so that they can be enjoyed by not only this generation, but by generations that are yet to be born. The greater San Diego area is becoming one of our country's most populated regions and the need for a wilderness experience will take on more and more significance with each passing year. In that so few areas are available that qualify for wilderness designation within the public lands of this region, I feel that Alternative 4 - All Wilderness - should be implemented.

Special management regulations can be adopted within the designating legislation to deal with the need for using mechanized equipment for the fighting of fires, etc. Similar special regulations can also deal with the problems associated

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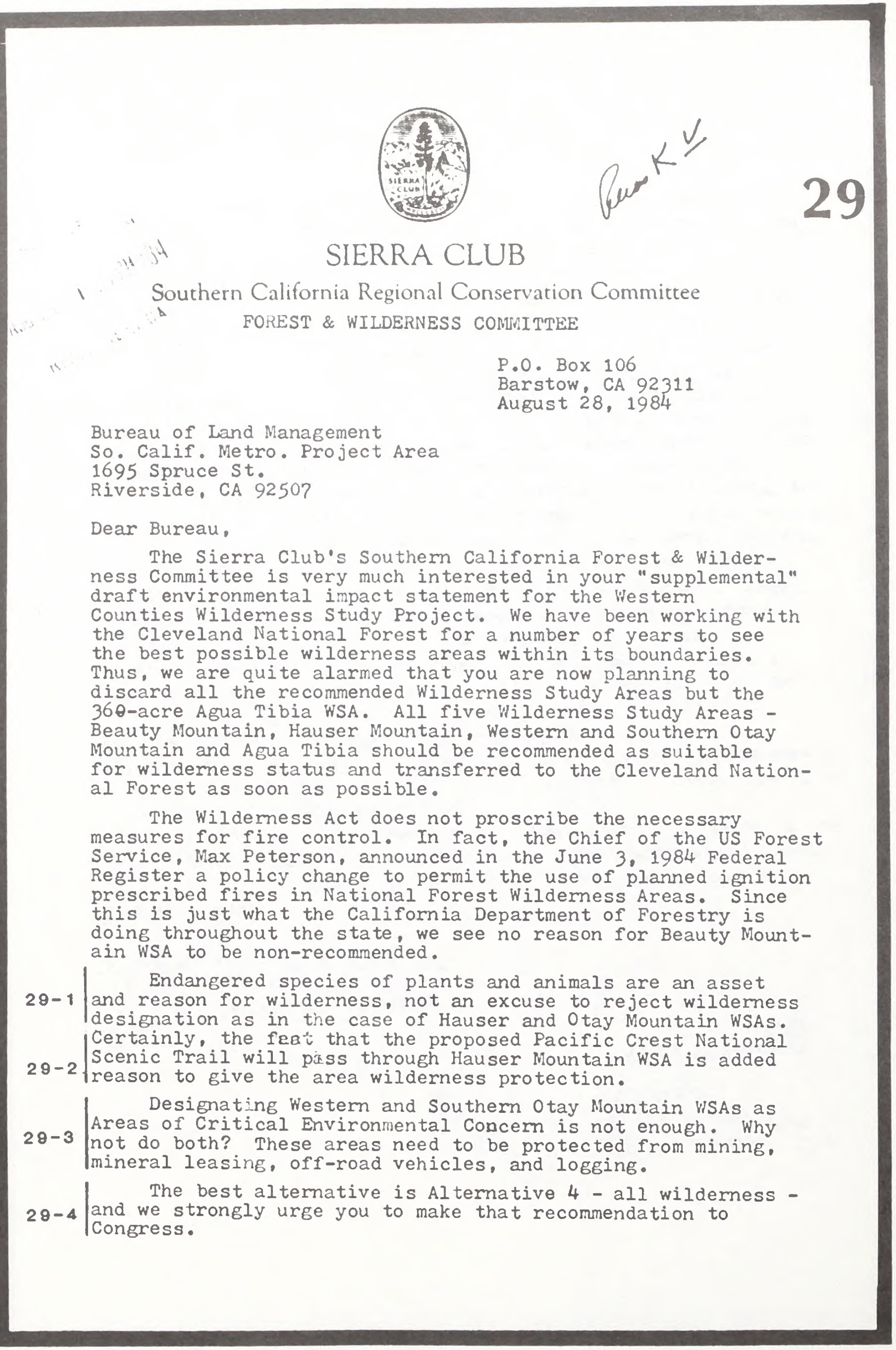


29

SIERRA CLUB
Southern California Regional Conservation Committee
FOREST & WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 106
Barstow, CA 92311
August 28, 1984

Bureau of Land Management
So. Calif. Metro. Project Area
1695 Spruce St.
Riverside, CA 92507

Dear Bureau,

The Sierra Club's Southern California Forest & Wilderness Committee is very much interested in your "supplemental" draft environmental impact statement for the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project. We have been working with the Cleveland National Forest for a number of years to see the best possible wilderness areas within its boundaries. Thus, we are quite alarmed that you are now planning to discard all the recommended Wilderness Study Areas but the 360-acre Agua Tibia WSA. All five Wilderness Study Areas - Beauty Mountain, Hauser Mountain, Western and Southern Otay Mountain and Agua Tibia should be recommended as suitable for wilderness status and transferred to the Cleveland National Forest as soon as possible.

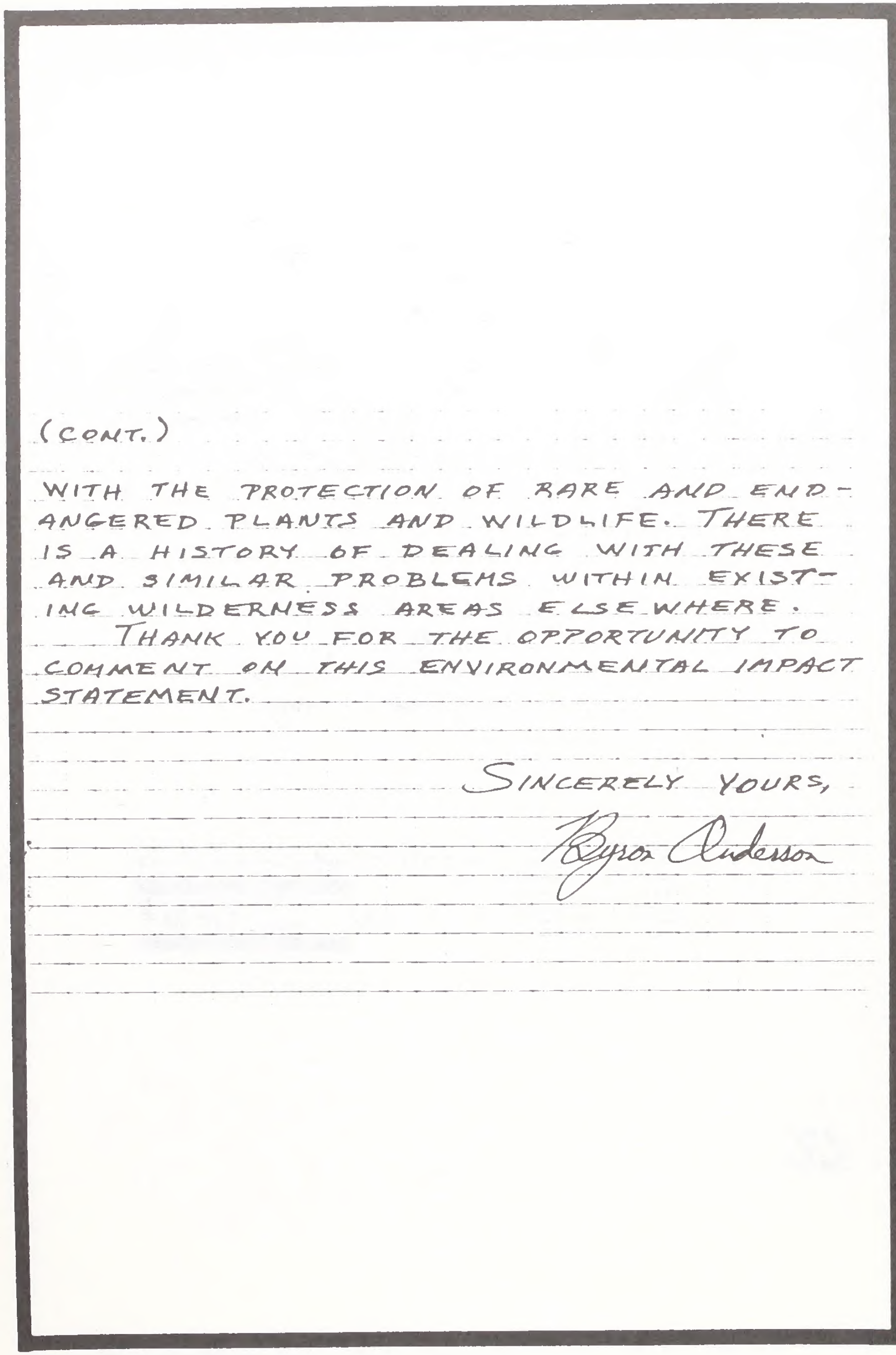
The Wilderness Act does not proscribe the necessary measures for fire control. In fact, the Chief of the US Forest Service, Max Peterson, announced in the June 3, 1984 Federal Register a policy change to permit the use of planned ignition prescribed fires in National Forest Wilderness Areas. Since this is just what the California Department of Forestry is doing throughout the state, we see no reason for Beauty Mountain WSA to be non-recommended.

29-1 Endangered species of plants and animals are an asset and reason for wilderness, not an excuse to reject wilderness designation as in the case of Hauser and Otay Mountain WSAs.

29-2 Certainly, the feat that the proposed Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail will pass through Hauser Mountain WSA is added reason to give the area wilderness protection.

29-3 Designating Western and Southern Otay Mountain WSAs as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern is not enough. Why not do both? These areas need to be protected from mining, mineral leasing, off-road vehicles, and logging.

29-4 The best alternative is Alternative 4 - all wilderness - and we strongly urge you to make that recommendation to Congress.



(CONT.)

WITH THE PROTECTION OF RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS AND WILDLIFE. THERE IS A HISTORY OF DEALING WITH THESE AND SIMILAR PROBLEMS WITHIN EXISTING WILDERNESS AREAS ELSEWHERE.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THIS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

SINCERELY YOURS,

Byron Anderson

Burk K

SDSU

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN DIEGO CA 92182

(619) 265-6767

30

August 29, 1984

Russell L. Kaldenberg
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Dear Mr. Kaldenberg:

We are writing in response to the proposal regarding the alternatives of wilderness or ACEC status for Otay Mountain. Tom Huffman, of the City of San Diego Environmental Planning office was kind enough to send us the material regarding the proposed designation.

We have conducted research on Otay Mountain with Dr. Paul Zedler of the biology department of San Diego State University over the past 6 years. Most of our work has centered on the population biology of the Tecate cypress (Cupressus forbesii), but we have also carried out some research in fire ecology in the area.

30-1 We are of the opinion that the Otay Mountain region should be designated as wilderness. The restrictions on use described in the wilderness designation are not sufficiently rigid to curtail our research activities, and we expect to be allowed to continue non-destructive sampling in the area on a project-by-project basis. It is hard to conceive of studies that would require the excessively destructive manipulations suggested by the ACEC alternative. There are sufficient burn sites that exist on Otay Mountain under the current management regime to make prescribed burns for research unnecessary; in any case, SDSU has other chaparral research sites that are available for controlled burning experiments. The data that we have collected on the Tecate cypress indicate that it is probably adapted to a much longer fire cycle than is usually implemented by prescribed burning, and we can see no advantage to managing this species with deliberate burns.

We also take issue with your view of the extreme fire hazard posed by the vegetation of Otay Mountain. Brush fires in the past decade have created a mosaic much like that which would be produced by a prescribed fire regime. The very old (90+ years) chaparral at Agua Tibia presents perhaps a greater fire risk, but this area has been recommended for wilderness status.

30-2 The other rare species found on Otay Mountain have, indeed, been poorly studied if data exist on them at all. In the absence of hard data on their population biology, and of any indication that their populations are being threatened by human encroachment or activities, we feel that the best management is minimum management. The implication that the ACEC status would permit better research opportunities and

---

Please also place me on your mailing list. I have repeatedly told the BLM of our interest in all lands adjacent to the National Forests here in Southern California but have not received all environmental impact statements as requested. We would also like to have a copy of this supplemental DEIR mailed to us.

Sincerely,

Joyce Burk
Joyce Burk
Chair

Russell L. Kaldenberg
Page 2
August 29, 1984

30-2 management practices seems irrelevant, as we see no indication that research on these species has high priority for funding. A use designation allowing for the least amount of impact on the area is probably the best way of ensuring the continued survival of these species.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Carla R. Scheidlinger
Research Associate

Gerald Scheid
Graduate Student

CRS:ple

WILDERNESS ADVENTURES!
American Wilderness Alliance
4260 East Evans Avenue / Suite 3 / Denver, Colorado 80222 / (303) 758-5018

Russ K ✓
31

August 28, 1984

Bureau of Land Management
Southern California Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Gentlemen:

Please accept these comments for inclusion in the supplemental draft statement for your Western Counties Wilderness Study Project.

The American Wilderness Alliance is a national non-profit organization whose members are working to conserve the nation's decreasing wilderness, wildlife habitat and free-flowing river resources.

Many of our California members have visited the Bureau of Land Management WSAs in your jurisdiction: Agua Tibia, Beauty Mountain, Western and Southern Otay Mountain and Hauser Mountain. In total, they encompass about 31,000 acres. In addition, I am personally acquainted with the Agua Tibia WSA and the adjoining national forest Agua Tibia Wilderness.

We were shocked by your supplemental draft statement which would reduce your earlier 17,000 acre wilderness recommendation on these WSAs to only 360 acres.

We strongly urge that in your final decision you adopt Alternative 4, which would recommend all the WSAs as suitable for a wilderness designation. We believe Alternative 4 is best for the following reasons, among others:

Western and Southern Otay Mountain--14 unusual, unique or otherwise rare plants make these WSAs outstanding botanical study areas unmatched elsewhere in the state.

31-1 For the BLM to exclude these two areas from further wilderness consideration because a wilderness classification may not provide adequate protection of the plants and meet the objectives of the Endangered Species Act seems to us to

Working Together To
Conserve Wild America

Bureau of Land Management
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Page 2

31-1 be in contradiction to the facts. We have seen little or no administrative designations by the BLM or other federal land agency that provide more effective protection than the 1964 Wilderness Act. In this light, the BLM's recommendation of an ACEC designation for the areas appears even more illogical. We note that some other ACECs are open to many types of development, including oil and gas exploitation, mining and logging.

31-2 Beauty Mountain--this WSA contains three rare plants. In addition, the area is very rugged and would seem to provide the wilderness visitor with a challenge. It certainly meets the requirements of the Wilderness Act.

Hauser Mountain--this WSA and adjoining lands contain six rare plants. The area also straddles the proposed alignment of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Certainly, every possible action should be taken at this time to protect the undeveloped natural integrity of the Trail before it is too late. It should be recalled that Congress and nature groups are compelled to spend millions of dollars in efforts to restore some natural appearance to the Appalachian Trail in the East.

31-3 Agua Tibia--we support wilderness status for all of this WSA, as an addition to the adjacent forest Wilderness, by the same name. To imply that the areas should not be designated as wilderness because of the need for fire control belies the fact that the 1964 Wilderness Act specifically provides for the control of fire, insects and disease in wilderness areas. This includes natural fire and planned ignition. The U.S. Forest Service has proposed several chaparral fire-prone areas in California for a wilderness classification

To relegate wilderness protection to California's state parks, such as Anza-Borrego, seems to be a matter of passing the buck. We who have strongly supported the BLM and its right to manage public lands would like to see the BLM recommend and manage wilderness, also.

As we have indicated, ACEC designation is not a subsitute for wilderness status. Only the Wilderness Act can adequately and consistently protect an environmentally sensitive area.

Therefore, we respectfully urge that Alternative 4 be given favorable consideration by the Bureau of Land Management.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Clifton R. Merritt
Executive Director

32

3750 El CantoDr
Spring Valley Ca 92077
August 31, 1984

Russel L. Kaldenberg,
Project Area Manager
Western Counties Wilderness Study Project
1965 Spruce Street
Riverside, Ca 92507

Dear Mr. Kalldenberg:

The opportunity to comment on the Supplemental DEIS for Western Counties is deeply appreciated. However, please recognize that the polite,scientific "worm has turned."

If I were a semanticist, it might be possible to find the precise words to express my utter disgust and contempt for the "logic" presented to justify the decision to wipe out BLM wilderness in the Western Counties.

Two years ago (8-5-82), my comments were politely couched in my efforts to hold before BLM the "good image," to encourage BLM to nurture the concept of wilderness, to modernize its thinking. Little did I know the recidivistic nature of the Bureau of Little Minds!

First, let's tackle the Bureau of Land Mine's statistics for analyzing the responses to the DEIS. Taking each letter of comment at a baseline response, the tally is:

	31	responses
-	4	No comments/no positions
=	27	
-	1	No unresolvable issues (Sandag)
=	26	
-	1	Botanist list
=	25	
-	1	SDGE, concerns outside WSA
=	24	Total of relevant responses

Of the 24 remaining responses:

4	No wilderness
12	Alternate 4 or additional wilderness
4	ACEC for Otay
1	Alternate 3 or 5
3	Agua Tibia and/ot Beaty Mt

32-1 BLM proposes 360 acres for Agua Tibia. Period! Therefore, if only 360 acres out of a possible 30,881 -about .011% - is now eligible, either BLM falsified the original inventory and DEIS or is lying now. Such a gross change could be dictated only by the Bureau's Ligneous Memory. Or, perhaps, some "bean counter's" computer came unplugged so the whole future of wilderness in Western Counties is zilch.

This second reason, above, needs no further comment.

Third, in its stubborness, BLM fails to realize that:

Wilderness is recognized world-wide as an essential factor in land management planning,

wilderness is NOT a "single purpose" use land catagory; it does NOT lock up the land,

32-2 Wilderness serves many functions: watershed, habitat, re-creation, historic & cultural study & preservation, research, sources of aesthetic, artistic and inspirational enjoyment, physical challenge, etc. Hunting & fishing are permitted as is canoeing and animal packing, grazing may continue, the President may authorize some public projects in the public interest (by reference to PL88-577) including fuel management,

Wilderness is a multi-purpose, sustained y eld management tool.

On the otherhand, land that is held for mining, energy & thermal development IS a single-purpose "lock out"; land held for grazing is a "lock out," so is OHV open area land.

Fourth, BLM, probably on directive by the Chief Executive Officer, is "selling its soul for a mess of potage."

The natural resources of the USA belong to all people for all time:

- they should be treated as a capital investment held in reserve for proper public use,
- they should be available to future generations,
- they should not be used for quick-term, private profit.

Wilderness is the ideal classification for the protection of the nation's irreplaceable resources; they can be released in time of national need.

This is an important concept, for, once the public resources have been exhausted (expoited) we, the people and our decendents, will be dependent on private/foreign reserves and blackmail and extortion prices.

However, the above section addresses only the physical aspects of national natural resource stewardship. The psychological and physiological and economic health of the people is disregarded in the Supplemental DEIS.

-- There are hundreds of thousands of people who enjoy the wilderness; people who cannot afford motor homes, "campers" 4x, 3x and motor cyles, or, who prefer non-motorized and quiet experiences, who are refreshed and renewed after a wilderness experience.

-- There are businesses (multibillion dollar enterprises) which are dependent upon wilderness-designated areas.

-- The withdrawal of vast areas for grazing, mineral, energy and geothermal resources which may not exists ex-caept in dreams glorifies the "money changers in the temple."

Fifth, specific comments on Supplemental DEIS:

32-3 - With the unrelenting advocacy of the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Rexreation Commission to promote OHV facilities on Otay Mesa and other places in the Laguna Mountains and for trails with staging areas all through the State, it is obvious that behind-the-scenes pressures on the Bureau of Latent Malefaction has been effective.

- BLMmust concur with the duplicity of forest managers, i.e., "we have to let it burn, nature needs it that way" versus "put it out, now." They promote use of fire, preach sermons against supression and yet use the anti-fire arguement to preclude wilderness designation.

- BLM apparently forgets that state wilderness is a creature of political bodies.

- BLM was correct in responding to comments about aliens on Otay Mountain.

- BLM appears to ignore the inadequacies of its 1975 Management Framework Plans - degredation is permitted in former WSA areas, so that they will never qualify regardless of Congressional intent.

OTAY MOUNTAIN. BLM asked for specific comments: Because it is close to an urban center which is scheduled for 3 million population in the near future, Because it has not been destroyed and because several agencies oversee its occupation and use, Otay Mountain would be an ideal wilderness area for the most southwest corner of USA.

SUMMARY: The Wilderness Studies Supplemental DEIS for Western Counties is a travesty, a creature of prestidigitation and an insult to Congress and its FLPMA.

I support Alternative 4 ofthe DRAFT EIS. I cannot accept Alternate 2 under the Supplement DEIS under any circumstances. You leave the public with Alternative 1, a 360 acre piece which it is hoped USFS will designated as wilderness.

Agua Tibia, Beauty Mountain and Otay must be added. Your current management of Hauser appears to have condemned it to non-wilderness.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Harriet Allen

Harriet Allen

33

P.O. Box 324
Skagway, AK 99840
August 28, 1984

Bureau of Land Management
Southern California
  Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce St.
Riverside, Calif., 92507

Dear Sir/Madam;

The following comments are being directed in response to the supplemental draft environmental impact statement for the Western Counties Wilderness Studies Project.

After reading the recommendations in the supplemental DEIS, I am in sharp disagreement with most of them. Although currently a resident of Alaska, I was an active participant in the original recommendations (for 17,774 acres of wilderness) and am mystified and somewhat angered that the most recent turn of events has eliminated all but a handful of acreage for possible wilderness consideration. Why has this taken place?? Why the inconsistency?? The land has not changed, only the face of the bureaucracy. The wilderness survey work, conducted by Arnold Schoeck of the El Centro Resource Area Office, was thorough and professional. It clearly indicated the pristine character of both the Western Otay and Southern Otay WSAs. 33-1 Both of these areas have many rare and endangered plants, most notably the Tecate Cypress. The existence of these species, however, should only enhance their nomination as a wilderness area, as the FLPMA clearly indicates. Rare plants and animals has never and should never be an impediment toward wilderness designation. Neither the language nor the intent of FLPMA ever suggested such a conflict, and in fact no scientific evidence suggests that any of these species would be substantially harmed, over the long term, by a forest or range fire. 33-2 Furthermore, neither legislation nor established practice suggests that any significant delays would exist in fighting a fire on these lands should they be designated wilderness. Many fires have been fought on existing Forest Service wildernesses, and the only step needed is that the Regional Forester's approval must be granted. Such a step can be easily accomplished regardless of the agency which eventually assumes jurisdiction of these lands.

Based upon the above comments, I again urge the BLM to recommend that 17,774 of the 30,883 acres be considered for wilderness designation in this area.

Sincerely,

Frank Norris

Frank Norris

34

DAVID G. BAXTER, M.D.
~~1001 GAYLEY AVENUE~~ 2732 Roscomare Rd.
~~LOS ANGELES~~, CALIFORNIA 90024
TELEPHONE ~~423-6571~~ 472 6638
INTERNAL MEDICINE AND HEMATOLOGY

8-30-84

Sirs:

This is to express dismay at the reduction in San Diego & Riverside Counties wilderness from 17,000 + to 300 + acres.

34-1 One would suppose rare plants would do better in wilderness-designated areas, perhaps with special provisions to keep ~~traffic~~ travel away from those parts. I believe, too, that in emergencies fire equipment can be used in wilderness.

34-2 Since ACEC designation may allow mining, oil wells, logging, off road vehicles this doesn't seem a substitute for Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas – better especially in Western & Southern Otay Mountains.

I wish the BLM were more responsive to the public – anyway thanks for listening

NON-ORV TYPES

David & Jan Baxter

35

John R. Swanson
P. O. Box 922
Berkeley, CA 94701

Great ✓

August 28, 1984.

Southern California Metropolitan Project Area.
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507.

Dear Sirs,

Please accept my comments, as follows, concerning the = Preliminary Wilderness Recommendations for the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project Southern California Metropolitan Project Area Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I have been acquainted with our Public Lands in this Southern California area for some fifty years, and for many decades have held the firm opinion that they contain outstanding Wilderness, as well as scenic, wild life, fish, botanic and cultural resources of certain national significance.

Such areas providing a vital link in all Americans hope, a lasting refuge for Man, and for all life, on this endangered planet.

I fully Urge that the following areas - acreages located on this Southern California Metropolitan Project Area - Bureau of Land Management areas - be fully classified and permanently protected as Wilderness, as each such Unit features superb Wilderness attributes, and to be added to our National Wilderness Preservation System now:
2

35-1
- Beauty Mountain 14,655.
- Hauser Mountain 6,310.
- Western Otay Mountain 8,840.
- Southern Otay Mountain 11,215.
- Agua Tibia 405.
- Coombs Peak 160.
- San Ysidro Mountain 2,855.
- San Felipe Hills 5630.
- Santa Rosa Mountains 33,870.
- Eastern McCain Valley 19,305
- Table Mountain 1,440.
  - Plus additional acreage in this area, Bureau of Land Management lands, to add as Wilderness, and to total 9,350.

For a Grand total of some 115,000 acres to be added to our National Wilderness Preservation System representing these Southern California Metropolitan Project Area, Bureau of Land Management areas.

To permanently Ban all forms of surface and sub surface development on all current, proposed and potential Wilderness, including Wilderness Study areas.

To acquire all In holdings on all Public Lands.

With No Disposal of any Public Lands.

For when we save Wilderness, we save America!

Sincerely,

John R. Swanson.

36

Great ✓

45 Hillpark Avenue
Great Neck, NY 11021
August 27, 1984

Bureau of Land Management
Southrn California Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, Calif . 92507

Gentlemen:

My friends and I are very concerned about the areas that you are not protecting and the areas that you want to practically give away, when your job is to protect and keep intact, our public lands and our National Parks. It is for this reason that we are writing this letter to you. I say "we", for my friends feel the way I do about our lands, and they asked me to write this letter for them as well as for myself. In view of this, please consider this as many letters and not just one, and I will give you their names and addresses at the end of this letter.

We all feel that:

36-1 1- The Wilderness Act recognizes the need for using mechanized and mechanical equipment in certain emergencies, including fire control, Also, Congress has repeatedly stated that a number of techniques, including prescribedburning and fuelbreaks, may be allowed in certain instances. Many areas in California have high fire danger at various seasons yet are successfully managed as wilderness.

36-2 2- Endangered species of plants and animals are an asset to wilderness, not an excuse to reject wilderness designation. There is a long history of special management regulations for endangered species within wilderness areas. In the John Muir Wilderness, for example, there are travel restrictions to protect bighorn sheep.

36-3 3- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) are not a substitute for wilderness designation. Mining, drilling for oil and gas, off-road vehicle use, and even logging may be allowed in ACECs. X

36-4 4- The fact that State Wilderness exists close to these wilderness study areas is a poor reason to reject wilderness recommendations for these areas.

5- The best alternative is Alternative 4 — all wilderness. BLM should recommend all the WSAs as suitable. Congress can then determine the best management for each area. X

In other words, our areas must be protected, and the logging, mining, drilling, use of mechanized vehicles, should be at a minimum. Our wildlife must BE PROTECTED and they can't be, and they won't have a chance to survive, if you keep on giving away our land, and ruin it by not protecting it. All of us writing this letter, ask you, plead with you, to keep our lands intact and don't allow the big money people to have their way, and in the long run, ruin our lands.

Very truly yours

Lillian Bieber
Mrs. Lillian Bieber

Enc.

The attached list of friends are the ones that asked me to write this letter for them.

37

August 31, 1984

Bureau of Land Management
Southern California Metropolitan Project Area

Dear Bureau,

For the last number of years, I have been working on the DEIS for many of our Western Parks and Preserves — from California to Alaska. I commented on the original Regional DEIS for Region 5, and I asked to be put on the mailing list with any further studies.

37-1 I did not receive anything on the BLM Western Counties Wilderness Study Project. Therefore, I did not go to the public hearing, nor did I send in my comments. I would like this to be rectified. Will you kindly put me on the mailing list for Cleveland National Forest?

37-2 I would also like to go on record as being against the BLM present recommendation of only

②

366 acres out of their previous recommendation of 19,774 acres.

To me, the only reason for studying WSA, and DEIS studies, is to mark the wilderness, to identify it, to name it as such, and to further protect its wilderness values is the sole reason for my exhaustive work of the past year on the DEIS books that have been sent to me by the government. From coast to coast, this nation already has huge industry complexes, freeways, developments, etc. But our once magnificent wildernesses (including tide pools, prairies, and wetlands) have disappeared, disappeared, disappeared. No more. This should stop.

37-3 Naming the WSA in San Diego and Riverside Counties as ~~ACEC~~ is not

WILDERNESS in SAN DIEGO C[illegible] in Russ ✓
RIVERSIDE COUNTIES — ②

37-3 good enough. These areas need the full
protection of Wilderness designation. The
37-4 presence of rare plants should
make the areas more suitable for
such designation. Other roadless
37-5 areas do not have trouble with fire
control under wilderness status. Congress
has said from the start that using
mechanized and mechanical equipment
is a recognized necessity. And
ACEC designation is nowhere as good as
wilderness — it allows off road vehicles,
mining, logging, etc — all of which
are a detriment to wilderness.

Use alternative #4 (all wilderness).

Sincerely yours,
Frances Dollar
6000 Coldwater Canyon #1
North Hollywood, Calif. 91606

38

Russ K ✓

August 31, 1984

So. Calif. Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, Ca. 92507

Attention: Russell L. Kaldenberg, Project Area Manager

Gentlemen:

I have reviewed the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project - Supplemental Draft and EIS - April 1984. Our letter (No. 11) under Chapter 5-Consultation and Coordination - expressed our previous views in general and are reflected in the following comments:

Specifically - -

1. Agua Tibia -
   The addition of 360 acres to the Cleveland National Forest and north of Agua Tibia Wilderness meets with no adverse reaction or comments. From the picture shown on page 3-6, it appears the real estate subdivisions are creeping close. It will become increasingly difficult to maintain the basic essentials for Wilderness.

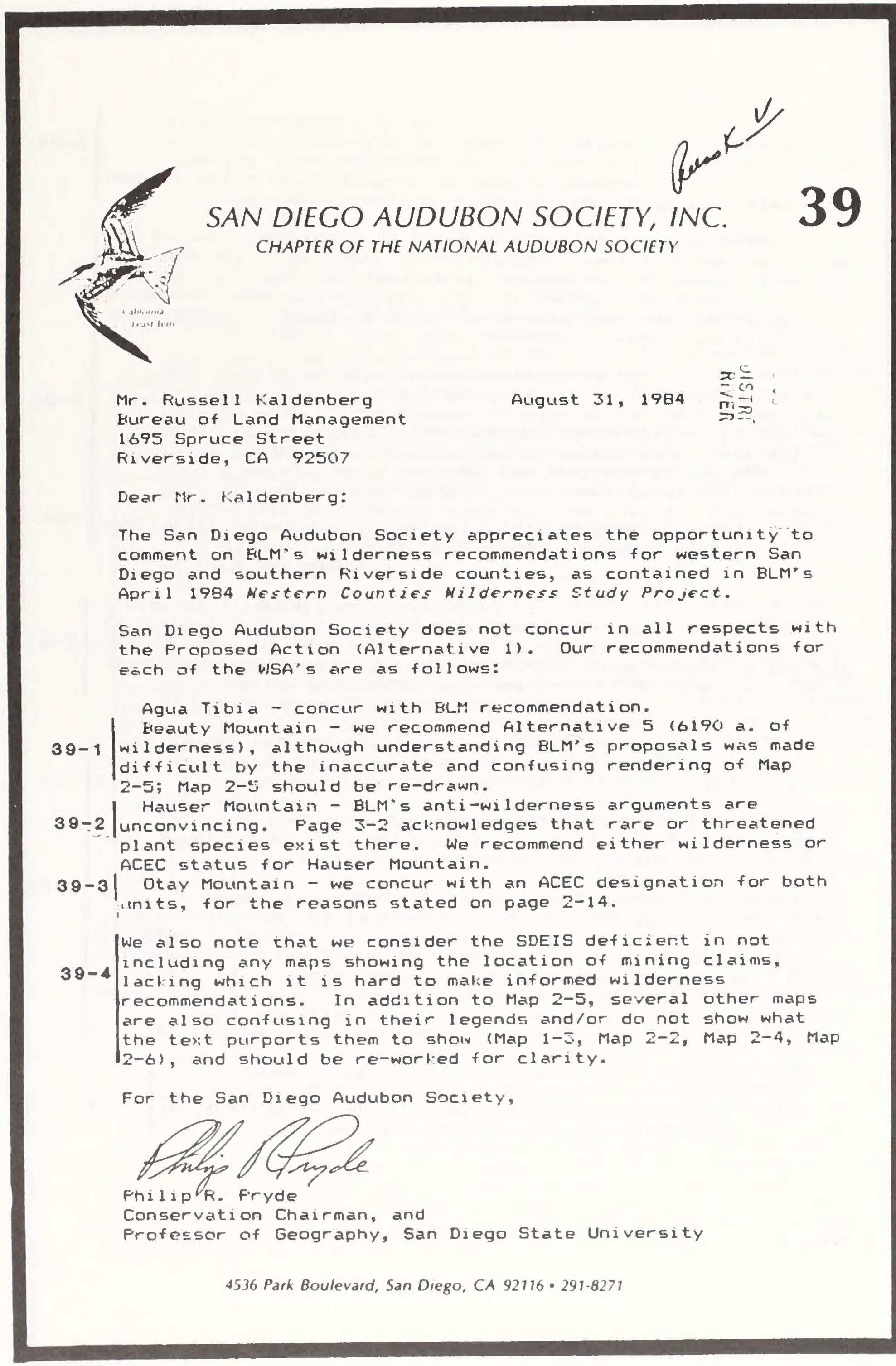
2. Beauty Mt. - 11,342 acres
   There should be consideration of a possible ACEC category should evidence of ecological damage occur in the future. Access to potential and/or existing mining claims and/or recreational mining should be retained and permitted. Therefore, we recommend removal from the WSA.

3. Hauser Mt. - 5,489 acres
   No redeemable feature for Wilderness.

4. Western Otay Mt. - 5,750 acres and South Otay Mt. - 7,940 acres
   It is important that these two units be retained in ACEC on a permanent basis. Encroachment by man on city-owned land is planned in the near future for the western areas along the border and will create more and more pressures on the surrounding land masses. 38-1 Wilderness will not work - fire hazard, illegal aliens and lack of environmental controls will create unlimited police and maintenance problems. Also, the possibility of a future ORV Park nearby as proposed on the attached enclosures will create additional pressures on the BLM and/or Forestry personnel.

Summary - We endorse the Alternative I - Proposed Action - Page 2-2.

Sincerely,
Carmelita Swartz
Public Lands Liason
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Endorsed by Public Lands Advisory Committee - Calif. Fed. Of Min. Soc.



SAN DIEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Rusk ✓

39

DISTRI
RIVER

Mr. Russell Kaldenberg
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

August 31, 1984

Dear Mr. Kaldenberg:

The San Diego Audubon Society appreciates the opportunity to comment on BLM's wilderness recommendations for western San Diego and southern Riverside counties, as contained in BLM's April 1984 *Western Counties Wilderness Study Project*.

San Diego Audubon Society does not concur in all respects with the Proposed Action (Alternative 1). Our recommendations for each of the WSA's are as follows:

Agua Tibia - concur with BLM recommendation.

39-1 Beauty Mountain - we recommend Alternative 5 (6190 a. of wilderness), although understanding BLM's proposals was made difficult by the inaccurate and confusing rendering of Map 2-5; Map 2-5 should be re-drawn.

39-2 Hauser Mountain - BLM's anti-wilderness arguments are unconvincing. Page 3-2 acknowledges that rare or threatened plant species exist there. We recommend either wilderness or ACEC status for Hauser Mountain.

39-3 Otay Mountain - we concur with an ACEC designation for both units, for the reasons stated on page 2-14.

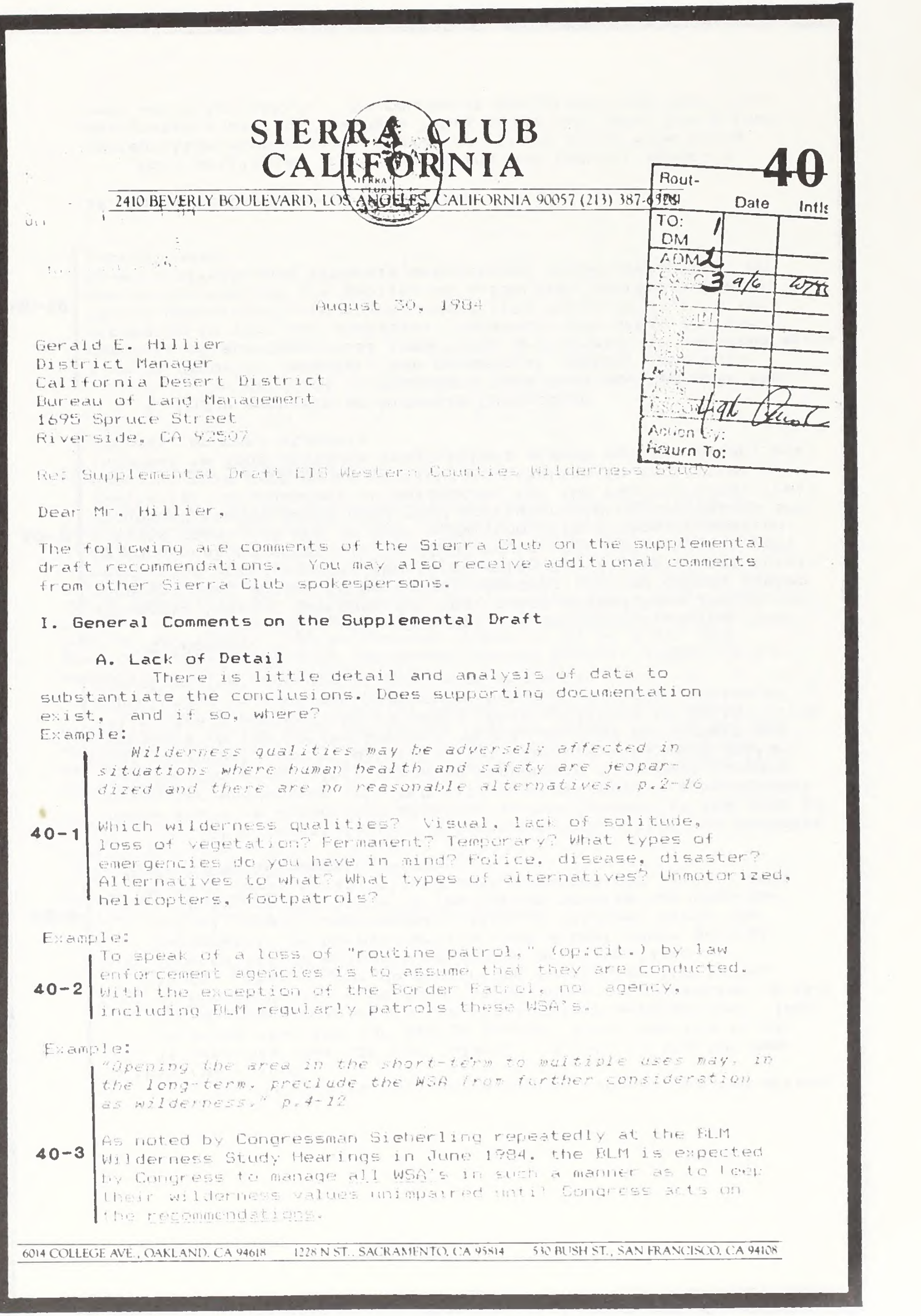
39-4 We also note that we consider the SDEIS deficient in not including any maps showing the location of mining claims, lacking which it is hard to make informed wilderness recommendations. In addition to Map 2-5, several other maps are also confusing in their legends and/or do not show what the text purports them to show (Map 1-3, Map 2-2, Map 2-4, Map 2-6), and should be re-worked for clarity.

For the San Diego Audubon Society,

Philip R Fryde

Philip R. Pryde
Conservation Chairman, and
Professor of Geography, San Diego State University

4536 Park Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92116 • 291-8271



SIERRA CLUB
CALIFORNIA
2410 BEVERLY BOULEVARD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90057 (213) 387-6528

40

Rout-ing | Date | Intls
TO: DM 1
ADM 2
3 9/6
Action by:
Return To:

August 30, 1984

Gerald E. Hillier
District Manager
California Desert District
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Re: Supplemental Draft EIS Western Counties Wilderness Study

Dear Mr. Hillier,

The following are comments of the Sierra Club on the supplemental draft recommendations. You may also receive additional comments from other Sierra Club spokespersons.

I. General Comments on the Supplemental Draft

A. Lack of Detail

There is little detail and analysis of data to substantiate the conclusions. Does supporting documentation exist, and if so, where?

Example:

Wilderness qualities may be adversely affected in situations where human health and safety are jeopardized and there are no reasonable alternatives. p.2-16

40-1 Which wilderness qualities? Visual, lack of solitude, loss of vegetation? Permanent? Temporary? What types of emergencies do you have in mind? Police, disease, disaster? Alternatives to what? What types of alternatives? Unmotorized, helicopters, footpatrols?

Example:

40-2 To speak of a loss of "routine patrol," (op:cit.) by law enforcement agencies is to assume that they are conducted. With the exception of the Border Patrol, no agency, including BLM regularly patrols these WSA's.

Example:

"Opening the area in the short-term to multiple uses may, in the long-term, preclude the WSA from further consideration as wilderness." p.4-12

40-3 As noted by Congressman Sieberling repeatedly at the BLM Wilderness Study Hearings in June 1984, the BLM is expected by Congress to manage all WSA's in such a manner as to keep their wilderness values unimpaired until Congress acts on the recommendations.

6014 COLLEGE AVE., OAKLAND, CA 94618 1228 N ST., SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 530 BUSH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108

40-3 Some multiple uses are consistent with wilderness designation: wildlife, recreation (non-motorized), watershed, existing grazing, existing mining, air resources, water, scenic uses, etc. Which short-term multiple uses?

B. Lack of Justification

40-4 The justification for not recommending areas as wilderness is very "thin." In particular your decisions appear to be political rather than based on the character of the area. Public comments supported wilderness designation with few exceptions. Comments from agencies were cautious, and principally concerned fire management. It is apparent that none of the agencies has a plan for other than ignoring the area until something happens... such as a fire.

1. If the areas are turned over to the USFS, and managed as wilderness, recent FS policy will permit pre and post ignition fire management techniques, including prescribed burning.
2. Several of the areas, Beauty Mountain especially, are described as "pristine" and as "supplements (for a) limited representative in the NWPS." p. 3-2

C. Preferred Alternative

40-5 The previous draft recommended more of the acres for wilderness. Nothing in this draft explains the change in the BLM recommendation. The change of one preferred alternative to another left readers of the letters at a loss unless they knew that your preferred alternative had changed.

D. Fire and Chaparral

40-6 In your response to the specific concerns to the California Department of Forestry you indicated that

"Wilderness designation would not preclude all pre-suppression and supression actions. The experiences of the U.S. Forest Service with units of the National Wilderness Preservation System, Anza Borrego Desert State Park with units of the California Wilderness Preservation System, and CDF/BLM suppression actions in WSAs in the past three years has shown that life and property can be protected both in and outside of wilderness areas." p. 5-10

In view of that, what opposition remains to wilderness designation? It certainly does not preclude any chaparral community from consideration for wilderness designation. It is possible although not necessarily convenient to protect life and property within or near any wilderness area. Inconvenience does not prevent Congress from designating areas as Wilderness.

40-7 The above section is inconsistent with the reason for not recommending wilderness for Beauty Mountain.

"The CDF...has expressed concern that wilderness designation would interfere with its plans and methods for providing fire protection." p. 2-3.

40-8 In addition to the inconsistency, there are two errors in this reasoning:

1. It presumes that CDF has "plans." A call to the CDF has revealed that the CdF has no plans. Their service is offered under contract to the BLM for fire suppression. They do not currently have funds to do any pre-suppression on BLM lands. They do not do prescribed burning on BLM lands.
2. They do not do either suppression or other "fire management" on Forest Service land except under general mutual support agreements. This is relevant since the transfer of the lands to the Forest Service has been approved administratively by both agencies and is only awaiting Congressional action.

It is possible that Wilderness designation may actually reduce the fire associated problems in the future. If the area is designated Wilderness, the BLM will have to prepare a management plan for the area. This mandated management plan must contain fuel managment and wildlife habitat elements. Given budgetary shortages in the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and California Department of Forestry, this is likely to be the first opportunity to consider prescribed burning, pre-suppression or any other fuel management action on the units.

E. Access

40-9 These WSA's are not nearly as accessible as the study documents imply. Searches for the routes marked have led to (or through) what appear to be private parcels, locked gates, posted roads, and armed guards. The intervening terrain is almost totally chaparral covered. These "4WD" routes are for the most part private roads and are in poor condition with extensive erosion. Abandoned routes would make good trails providing trailheads are available. Discussions in guidebooks for the Pacific Crest Trail describe this section as particularly lacking in facilities of interest to long distance trail hikers (cache points, water, post offices, grocery stores.)

F. Undue emphasis on Minerals Extraction

40-10 The needs of rockhounders have been equated with the size of deposits necessary for commercial mining. The only deposits of any commercial importance are already in patented mines according to your own analysis. Moreover, the areas are currently unavailable for rockhounders with vehicles just as they are to the rest of the public, so wilderness designation will have no effect upon minerals extraction, either commerical or recreational.

II. Specific Comments on Agua Tibia

Only artificial lines separating one federal agency's jurisdiction from another prevented these acres from being designated a part of the Agua Tibia Wilderness when the wilderness was established. Of course it has wilderness character.

III. Specific Comments on Beauty Mountain

A. The pristine comdition of the area, the presence of rare plants, its opportunities for solitude and primitive experiences have all been noted by the BLM. (See p. 3-2, and p. 3-8 to 3-11.)

40-11 B. Although the California Rding and Hiking Trail and the PCT are both noted on the map, I understand from conversations with BLM personnel that the CRHT has been abandoned, and that the permanent route for the PCT will be moved furthur east because of the access difficulties.

Why wasn't this mentioned in the document? What opportunities exist for easements for access, or exchanges to provide access?

40-12 C. The following values were not quantified to any extent: watershed, wildlife, habitat, vegetation mix, and recreation, climate.

Although recreation was identified as one of the issues to be addressed in the draft (p.1-11), on page 2-17, the "Wilderness Impact Summary" does not mention any recreation impact except vehicular access. Vehicular access is assessed as miles "eliminated." It is not clear to the Sierra Club how these miles will be eliminated since they are closed already.

No summary of user days "foregone" is mentioned, either formal or informal. No survey of hiking, riding, photography, birdwatching and other low impact recreation user days was mentioned. No mention is made of the number of hunters using the areas. There is no clear indication of whether designation of wilderness is expected to increase or decrease the use in the areas. There is no information on current use levels either by vehicles on existing private access routes, or by hikers and others travelling on foot.

Perhaps one of the most valuable resources of the area can be noted only by attempting to visit the area as I did during the middle of a very hot, humid and smoggy day in July.

Because the general area lies some 2000 feet higher on average than the surrounding roads, approaching Beauty Mountains means ascending to about 1200 meters onto the plateau lands between Laguna Mountain and San Jacinto. At that elevation it is possible to enjoy an outing in the middle of the day in the sun without endangering one's health. The air is relatively clean and smog free, and the temperature is appropriate for hiking.

On other occasions in the area I have encountered snow. The occasional opportunities for snow play were not mentioned either. This milder climate, less severe than either the San Jacinto Wilderness or the Anza Borrego Desert State Wilderness enhances its suitability for year-round wilderness recreation.

IV. Wilderness Recommendation

Since all of the Wilderness Study Areas meet the criteria for wilderness, the Sierra Club supports the "All wilderness," alternative. We take this extreme position advisedly, considering the acres that the Secretary of Interior is attempting to have dropped from the inventory. Designations such as ACEC's are not a substitute for wilderness classification since their management, as evidenced by plans and operations allowed in other ACEC's, may impair the wilderness character of an area. The Sierra Club believes that the protection of sensitive species is compatible with wilderness status.

We look forward to a better set of recommendations which more closely follow both the letter and the spirit of the Wilderness Act and the will of the people and Congress to expand the wilderness system (as evidenced by the number of acres added this year alone.)

Sincerely,

Judy Anderson

Judith A. Anderson
Southern California Regional Vice-President

cc:Congressman Seiberling,
SCLDF
Senator Cranston

Aust ✓

41

San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club
House of Hospitality, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park
San Diego, California 92101

4 August 1984

Russell Kaldenberg
Southern California Metropolitan Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1629 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Dear Mr. Kaldenberg:

Enclosed are comments for the Sierra Club on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project with specific comments on the Otay Mountain and Hauser Mountain Wilderness Study Areas. These supplement and support comments made by Judy Anderson.

Hauser Mountain comments were prepared by Wadad Dubbelday. The Otay Mountain comments were prepared by me. If you have any specific questions, please call me at (619) 273-8183. We look forward to working with you to achieve protection and preservation of these lands.

Very truly yours,

Susan E. Turnbach

Susan E. Turnbach

Enclosures (2)

Specific Comments on Hauser Mountain

The Hauser Mountain area is not easy to access; the one County maintained road on its perimeter ends at a locked gate, necessitating a hike through dense vegetation to enter the area. The other roads marked on the map also pass through private holdings and have very limited access. They cannot have been used very often and in their overgrown, partially reclaimed condition, would make excellent hiking trails for primitive wilderness enthusiasts.

The whole area is covered with dense native chaparral combined with lesser proportions of scrub oak, manzanita, and cactus. Numerous species of birds and reptiles are observed and heard by the visitor. The vegetation is virtually impenetrable and would naturally maintain its integrity against all but the most determined assaults.

41-1 The ground cover is valuable as watershed and erosion prevention. A few fairly large creeks cut through the area. Erosion was evident on an overgrown jeep trail where cattle had recently roamed. Severe damage to the native ecological community and heavy erosion damage would occur should recreational ORVs be permitted in the area.

Hauser Mountain is ideally suited for solitude seeking hikers because of its distant location and limited access. From the higher points, traces of ranches and farms are almost unnoticable. Smog is sometimes visible to the west, but this can hardly obscure the grand vistas of the surrounding hills in all directions or the unique and dramatic Morena Butte visible to the north. Even in the middle of the day in September, the climate was mild and pleasant for hiking.

Specific Comments on Otay Mountain

Otay Mountain presents a rugged and startlingly dramatic appearance when viewed from nearby urban centers. The vegetation is largely chaparral with scattered oak groves. The EIS reports that the rare Tecate cypress is found in the study area. Because much of this parcel is adjacent to undeveloped land in Mexico, the range and diversity of wildlife which use the area is probably greater than in a parcel totally surrounded by development. A bighorn sheep was observed several years ago by a hiker on the west side of the Mountain. The topography is complex with many canyons and subpeaks. The surrounding area is also rugged, and views to peaks in Mexico and nearby Tecate Peak and the Miguel mountains contribute to the feeling of wilderness.

The following areas are listed by the Environmental Impact Statements as precluding wilderness status:

Works of Man
The major intrusions by man on the area are the SDG&E transmission line to the east of the study area and the antennas on the peak. A road from Dulzura transects the mountain and provides access to these antennas. Most other roads appear to be locked to public access.

Works of man are clearly visable from many of the high points: homes, some firebreaks, smog, and the signs and lights of the urban communities to the west. This differs little from many mountain wildernesses. Even in the High Sierra, the smog of the San Joaquin Valley is clearly visible, and settlements in the Owens Valley and dust created by the loss of the native water to the urban area to the south are quite dominant when viewed from wilderness areas in the eastern slope of the Sierra. Smog and urban development are the chief views from San Gorgonio and San Jacinto Wildernesses. It is doubtful that anyone visiting any wilderness near urban areas would be surprised to see signs of the nearby urban centers. Rather what is necessary for wilderness is the ability to experience a sense of distance, of isolation, of challenge, and to have the gift of observing the wide diversity of land that is still relatively untrammeled.

Because of the complex nature of the topography with many canyons and ridges, the antennas at the peak and, to a lesser extent, the transmission line, are not visible from a large portion of the wilderness area. Several people who have hiked in the area commented that they didn't realize the antennas were there until they viewed them from Highway 94.

41-2 Fire:
As acknowledged above, Otay mountain vegetation largely consists of chaparral. Those opposed to wilderness often argue that chaparral should never be wilderness because fires can't be

41-2 controlled or prevented. The appropriate question is to what extent the fire hazard would be reduced by non-wilderness status. As discussed in Anderson's general comments on the EIS, fire management and prevention techniques are permitted in wilderness areas, and the area is certainly compact enough and close enough to civilization that aircraft could be used to suppress fire should it occur. Since this wilderness area is divided by the road, a limited amount of brush reduction could be practiced just outside these interior wilderness boundaries. This should provide sufficient protection for the communications site.

Among the suggested methods for managing this area for fire prevention is the completely artificial type conversion programs which deface the land and dramatically change the habitat for wildlife. This program serves the interests of those who wish to exploit public land for grazing. Since grazing in high density greatly degrades the area by destroying vegetation, increasing erosion, and polluting water sources and areas for camping, the effect of these grazing programs is to discourage non destructive recreational use. Fire management in chaparral can be accomplished by more sophisticated, "natural" methods, which do not permanently scar the land.

Chaparral serves a very useful role in watershed management, and concern about the effect of fire on erosion and runoff is justified. Grass is not as effective in controlling runoff and preventing erosion, particularly when it has been grazed.

The US Forest Service approach to fire prevention, compatible with a resource exploitation philosophy, has resulted in several type conversion programs in the San Diego Region. These have left permanent scars on the landscape and destroy a plant community which presents limited opportunities for commercial exploitation. Vast acreages of chaparral have been lost in the San Diego region due to uncontrolled development and crude fire prevention techniques. Because of these losses, and the projected loss of much more chaparral, it is very appropriate that more of this vegetative type be preserved as wilderness.

41-3 Protection of endangered species
Wilderness status should provide superior protection for sensitive and endangered plants and animals. Hand implemented measures could be instituted to reduce the risk of fire damage, if that is really necessary for preservation. It is hard to imagine that the environment which permitted these endangered plants to survive to date will not continue to foster those species. Furthermore, in this era of short budgets it is unlikely that funds will be made available for enhancing these species. It is far more likely that the Mountain will be subjected to authorized ORV use, camping condominiums, and other schemes to raise money from the land. These activities would no doubt result in the extermination of the endangered species from the region.

41-4 Roads
A road enters the area from Dulzura. The road forks to points at the "Camp Minnewawa", Kuebler Ranch, and Marron Valley near Tecate dividing the WSA into three parcels. This unfortunate division of the area into three "independent" study areas has influenced conclusions about supportability of the wilderness which would be less viable if the Wilderness were being considered as a whole with three sections. Regardless of whether the road to the antennas is maintained, minimized or removed, hikers using the wilderness area will probably treat it as one area. Despite the presence of the road, the area is an integral unit, and planning should attempt to enhance that integrity. For this reason we think that the study area northeast of Doghouse Junction should be included in the wilderness with the other two areas.

41-5 Border Patrol operations
To the extent that the Border Patrol must cover the area, horseback, electronic surveillance, and aircraft should not be impaired by the wilderness designation. While there is very intense activity in the region adjacent to the Tijuana River Estuary (Border Field), the level of activity is not nearly as high in this area. I have been hiking around Barrett Lake and seen a band of 14 illegal aliens hiking up Barrett Creek and around the Lake. These were reported quite early in the day by the caretaker at the dam, yet no enforcement activity resulted anywhere in the vicinity. Even if roads were bulldozed back and forth across the wilderness, it would more likely enhance the opportunity for illegal trespass than inhibit it.

Comments on omissions from the EIS:

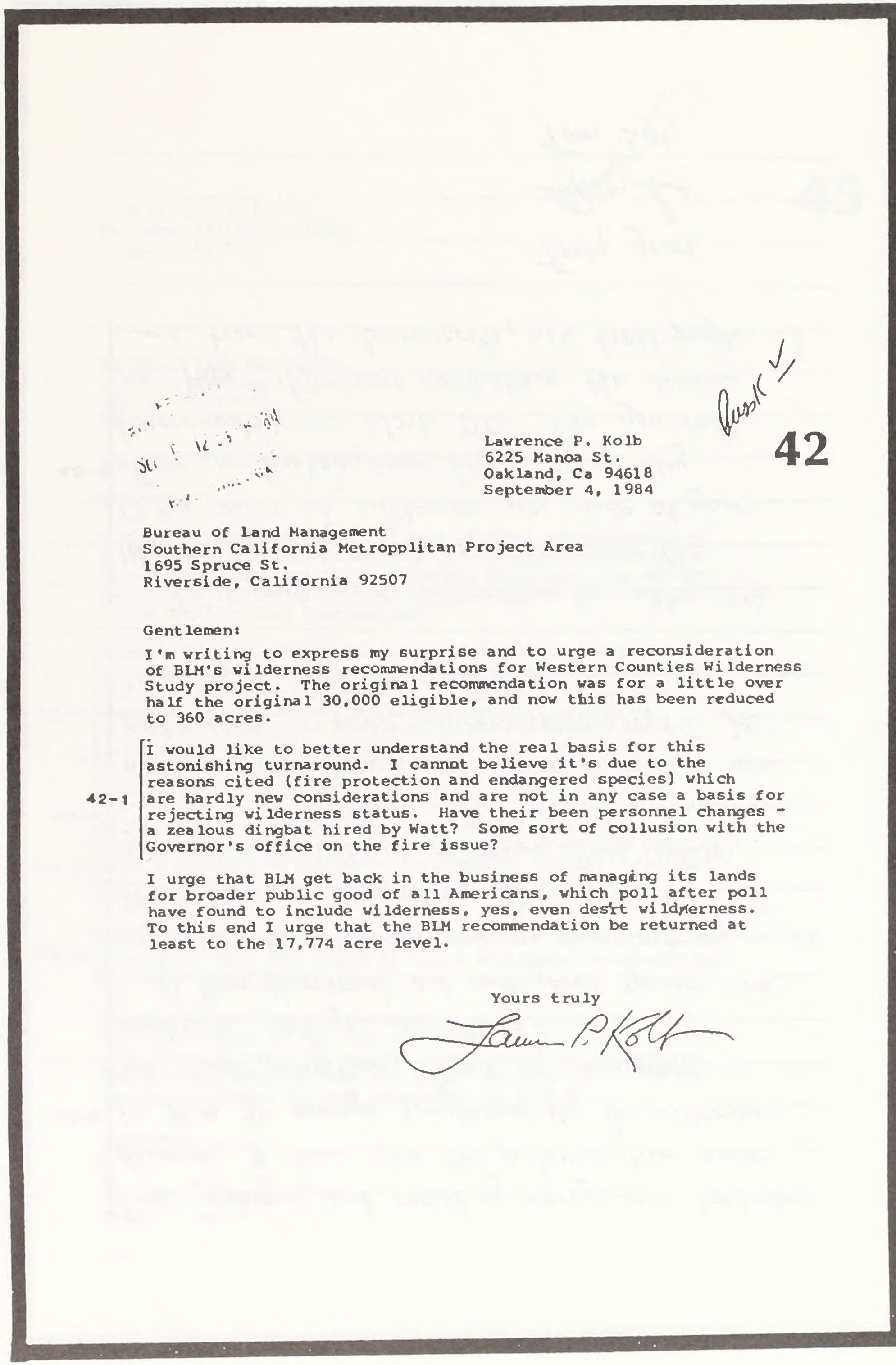
41-6 Recreation
The EIS is quite limited in discussing how the Otay Mountain area could be used for recreation. Indeed, the preferred alternative implies that it would be managed primarily as a communications site, grazing, if type conversion succeeds, and (if funds permit) for protecting the rare plants. Occasional entry might be permitted to select study groups. There is very little discussion of the recreational opportunities presented by this area and how the might be utilized in conjunction with other nearby public land. Hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding, are all feasible in this area for most of the year. Fire hazards could be reduced by limiting ground fires and even camp stoves during the most dangerous times, methods used by the Forest Service in the High Sierra.

Trails need; to be established and maintained. The roads make a reasonable start, and might even be used for campsites by backpackers. According to the guard at the Thousand Trails resort, the road there is gated and hikers are forbidden to cross. He also said that the road from Kuebler Ranch was similarly

blocked. Access should be expanded to permit hikers and horse riders to traverse the area. Access should be negotiated to permit people to hike from the County camp at Otay Lake. Routes from Otay Mountain area to Lake Morena and Hauser should be planned.

In addition to protecting the wilderness from the hikers, there may be concern about protecting the hikers from traversing illegal aliens. Yet other than excluding the public from the area (which is already becoming the management philosophy near Border Field), wilderness status will not substantially alter the risk to hikers.

41-7 Cultural Resources
The section on cultural resources was rather limited, yet there have been some reports on the presence of Indians living in the general area. Have the Otay and the Hauser areas been investigated for the presence of any astronomical sites such as those reported near Jacumba in Mexico?



Russ K ✓

42

SEP 5 12 23 PM '84

Lawrence P. Kolb
6225 Manoa St.
Oakland, Ca 94618
September 4, 1984

Bureau of Land Management
Southern California Metropplitan Project Area
1695 Spruce St.
Riverside, California 92507

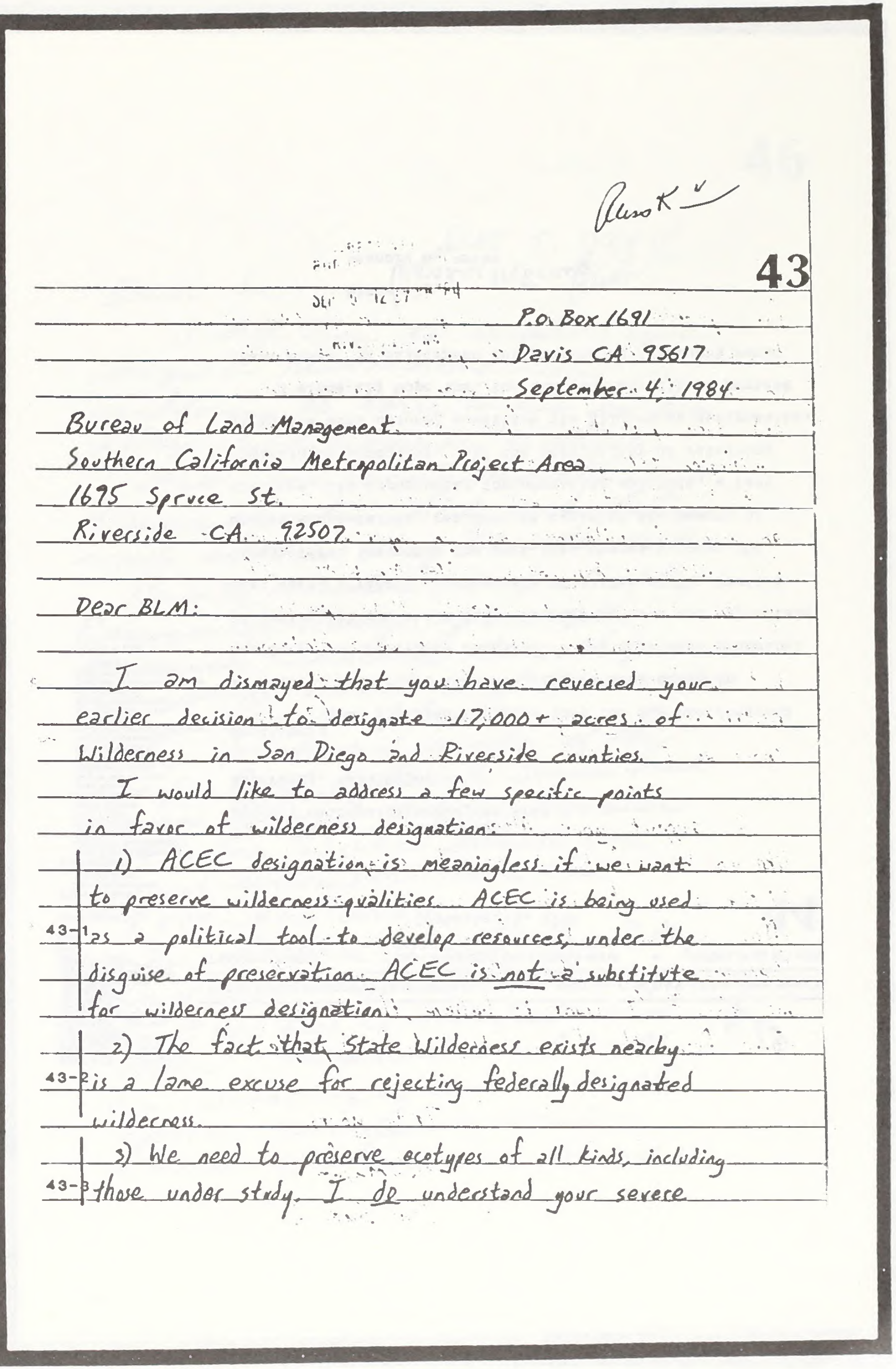
Gentlemen:

I'm writing to express my surprise and to urge a reconsideration of BLM's wilderness recommendations for Western Counties Wilderness Study project. The original recommendation was for a little over half the original 30,000 eligible, and now this has been reduced to 360 acres.

42-1 I would like to better understand the real basis for this astonishing turnaround. I cannot believe it's due to the reasons cited (fire protection and endangered species) which are hardly new considerations and are not in any case a basis for rejecting wilderness status. Have their been personnel changes - a zealous dingbat hired by Watt? Some sort of collusion with the Governor's office on the fire issue?

I urge that BLM get back in the business of managing its lands for broader public good of all Americans, which poll after poll have found to include wilderness, yes, even desert wilderness. To this end I urge that the BLM recommendation be returned at least to the 17,774 acre level.

Yours truly



Russ K ✓

43

SEP 5 12 27 PM '84

P.O. Box 1691
Davis CA 95617
September 4, 1984

Bureau of Land Management
Southern California Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce St.
Riverside CA 92507

Dear BLM:

I am dismayed that you have reversed your earlier decision to designate 17,000+ acres of Wilderness in San Diego and Riverside counties.

I would like to address a few specific points in favor of wilderness designation:

43-1 1) ACEC designation is meaningless if we want to preserve wilderness qualities. ACEC is being used as a political tool to develop resources, under the disguise of preservation. ACEC is not a substitute for wilderness designation.

43-2 2) The fact that State Wilderness exists nearby is a lame excuse for rejecting federally designated wilderness.

43-3 3) We need to preserve ecotypes of all kinds, including those under study. I do understand your severe

fire problems and resulting management headaches.
However, I know that the professionalism exists
43-3 in BLM to manage simultaneously for wilderness
and fire protection. (Don't let Sacramento or
Washington tell you otherwise!)

4) Rare, threatened, and endangered species are
an asset to wilderness and an important arguement
for wilderness designation. (Otay Mtn. WSA's). If
you are serious about protecting these species,
43-4 wilderness designation should not be a hinderance
but a help. There are travel and other use
restrictions in many wilderness areas (I do
know as I used to manage one.)

I support your Alternative 4. Also, I'd
like to know if the decision to scrap the
17 K+ acres of wilderness was made at your
43-5 office or handed down from Cottage Way
(Sacramento) or Wash D.C. Can you tell
me this? (I want to believe the decision
came from the bureaucrats, not field people...)

Truly yours,

Tom Suk

Tom Suk

PEOPLE FOR PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL AND WILD IN BAY AREA OPEN SPACE
47 LEVANT STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114 • PHONE (415) 861-5636

PRESIDENT
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ORGANIZERS
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Esmond Milsner
Patrick McSweeney
Michael & Joanna McClure
Louise Richter
Dr. Edward S. Ross
Audrey Penn Rogers
Nan Tunison
Save the Redwoods League
California Native Plant Society

A Partial List.

Rent ✓

44

September 5, 1984

The Bureau of Land Management
So.Cal. Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce St.
Riverside, Cal. 92507

Gentlemen:

I am dismayed to learn that the BLM has reversed an earlier wilderness decision for roadless areas in San Diego and Riverside counties! I was once vice principal of Indio High and while there learned to love and appreciate that area. A recent showing here of slides of the Pacific Crest Trail including the part that passes through the Hauser Mountain WSA reminded me again of the beauty of the area, its opportunity for providing solitude, a fast diminishing commodity, and the possibility of retaining it in its most natural condition via wilderness designation.

I sincerely hope that the BLM will see fit to protect these areas by wilderness designation as I thought would be the case.

Sincerely,
Leonore M Bravo
Leonore M. Bravo

45

1080 N. Chester Avenue
Pasadena, California 91104
September 4, 1984

Bureau of Land Management
Southern California Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

RE: Western Counties Wilderness Study Project

Gentlemen:

I wish to express my support of your original recommendation of 17,774 acres of 30,883 as suitable for wilderness designation. This includes the Agua Tibia Wilderness Study Area, the eastern portions of the Beauty Mountain and Western Otay WSAs, and part of the Southern Otay Mountain WSA.

45-1 I oppose the current recommendation of a reduction down to 360 acres. The Wilderness Act and Congress recognize the need for fire control -- many areas in California have high fire danger at various seasons yet are successfully managed as wilderness. Endangered species of plants and animals are an asset to wilderness -- not an excuse to reject wilderness designation. There is a long history of special management regulations for endangered species within wilderness areas.

45-2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) are not a substitute for wilderness designation. This protection could be made in addition to wilderness designation. Mining, drilling for oil and gas, off-road vehicles use, and logging may be allowed in ACECs.

45-3 The fact that State Wilderness exists close to these Wilderness Study Areas is a poor reason to reject wilderness recommendations for these areas.

The best alternative is Alternative 4 -- all wilderness. BLM should recommend all the WSAs as suitable -- the above mentioned plus Hauser Mountain WSA and the remainders of the Western and Southern Otay Mountain WSAs and Beauty Mountain WSA. Congress can then determine the best management for each area.

Sincerely,

Donna R. Ripley

Donna R. Ripley

drr

46

Sept. 5, 1984 ✓

Dear Sir:

I urge you to support your original recommendations for wilderness to three areas in San Diego and Riverside Counties.

These are: Beauty Mountain W.S.A. Hauser Mountain W.S.A., and Western and Southern Otay Mountain WSAs.

Beauty Mountain, as part of the Peninsular Range geomorphic province, contains dense chaparral sage scrub vegetation and three (3) rare plants.

The proposed route of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail passes through Hauser Mountain W.S.A. Six (6) rare plants are found within or near this 9,489-acre W.S.A.

The Western and Southern Otay Mountains range in elevation of about 400 feet to 3,400 feet and contain chapparal scrub with an overstory of the rare Tecate Cypress. Fourteen (14) sensitive species of plants are found on

-2-

Otay Mountain making it a botanical study area unequalled in California.

46-1 Endangered species of plants and animals are an asset to wilderness. There is a long history of special management regulations for endangered species within wilderness areas.

46-2 The Wilderness act recognizes the need for using mechanical equipment in certain emergencies. Also, Congress has stated that prescribed burning and fuelbreaks may be allowed in certain instances.

The best alternative is Alternative 4 - all wilderness.

Sincerely,
Ms. Eleanor Elander
1108 64th Street
Sacramento, Calif., 95819

47

California Association of 4WD Clubs Inc.
(714) 867-3366
PATRICE DAVISON
LAND USE COMMITTEE
FOREST SERVICE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT
P.O. Box 872
Running Springs, California 92382

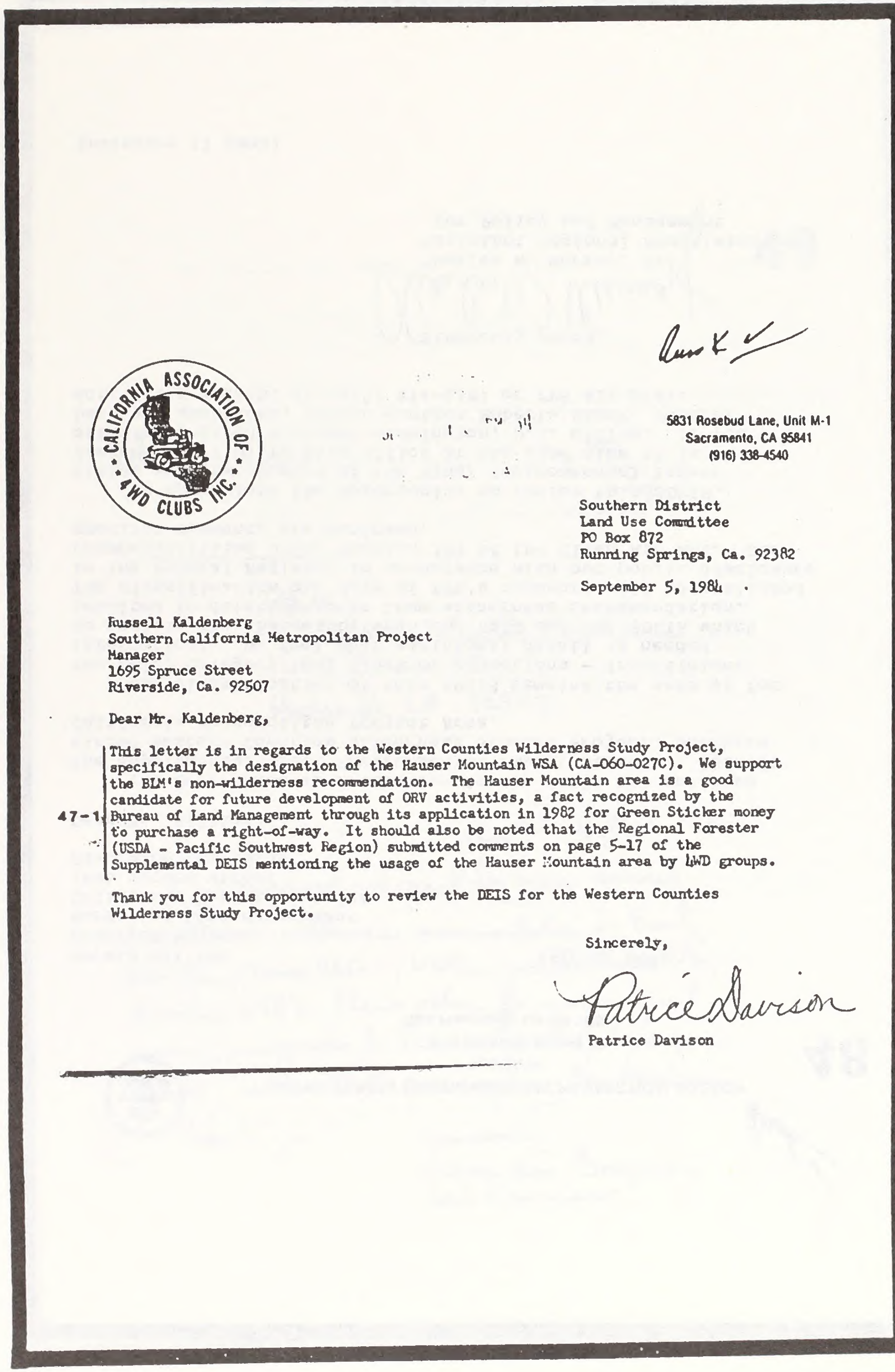
psst !

Dear Mr. Kaldenberg,

Enclosed are my comments and a cover letter I received w/the Supp. DEIS. Please note it the cover letter is dated Aug. 28, even though I requested a copy on Aug. 8, 1984. I did not receive this document until Aug. 30. The short length of time left for comment coupled with the fact that Mr. Bill Haig is on leave until the 20th of Sept. did not leave me with all the time or info. necessary to comment as I would have preferred before the deadline.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Pat Davison



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF 4WD CLUBS INC.

5831 Rosebud Lane, Unit M-1
Sacramento, CA 95841
(916) 338-4540

Russ K

Southern District
Land Use Committee
PO Box 872
Running Springs, Ca. 92382

September 5, 1984

Russell Kaldenberg
Southern California Metropolitan Project
Manager
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, Ca. 92507

Dear Mr. Kaldenberg,

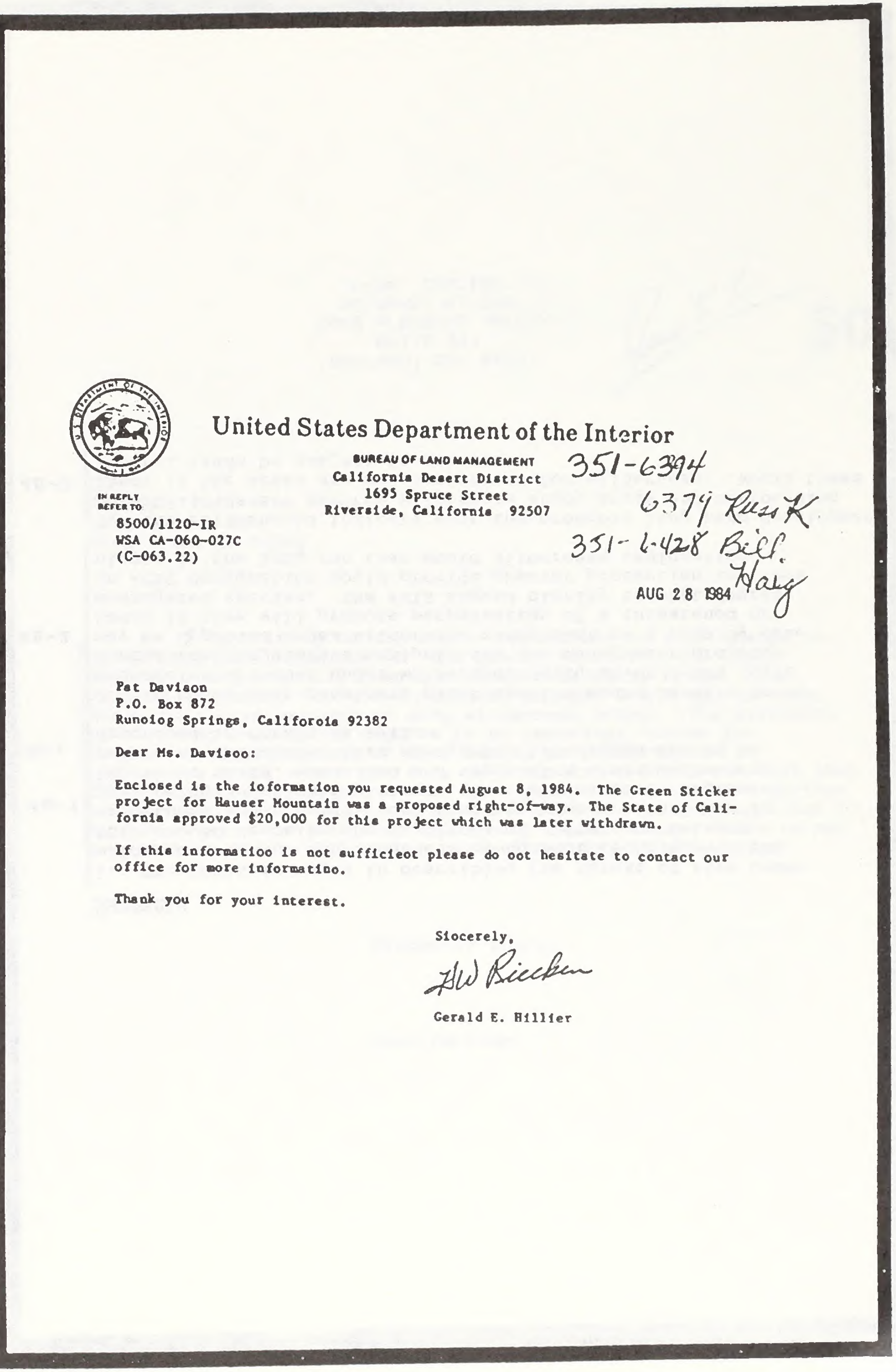
47-1 This letter is in regards to the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project, specifically the designation of the Hauser Mountain WSA (CA-060-027C). We support the BLM's non-wilderness recommendation. The Hauser Mountain area is a good candidate for future development of ORV activities, a fact recognized by the Bureau of Land Management through its application in 1982 for Green Sticker money to purchase a right-of-way. It should also be noted that the Regional Forester (USDA - Pacific Southwest Region) submitted comments on page 5-17 of the Supplemental DEIS mentioning the usage of the Hauser Mountain area by 4WD groups.

Thank you for this opportunity to review the DEIS for the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project.

Sincerely,

Patrice Davison

Patrice Davison



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
California Desert District
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

351-6394
6379 Russ K
351-6428 Bill
Harg

IN REPLY REFER TO
8500/1120-IR
WSA CA-060-027C
(C-063.22)

AUG 28 1984

Pat Davison
P.O. Box 872
Running Springs, California 92382

Dear Ms. Davison:

Enclosed is the information you requested August 8, 1984. The Green Sticker project for Hauser Mountain was a proposed right-of-way. The State of California approved $20,000 for this project which was later withdrawn.

If this information is not sufficient please do not hesitate to contact our office for more information.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Hillier

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

48

SEP 4 1984

Gerald Hillier
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, Ca 92507

Dear Mr. Hillier:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) titled Western Counties Wilderness Studies Project, Southern California Metropolitan Project Area.

Our classification of this SDEIS remains the same as for the DEIS, category LO-2 (lack of objections - insufficient information). We feel that additional detail is needed to explain the changes between the DEIS and the SDEIS which resulted in deleting areas from wilderness recommendation. The classification and date of EPA's comments will be published in the Federal Register in accordance with our public disclosure responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Our specific comments are enclosed.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this SDEIS. Please send two copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to this office at the same time it is officially filed with our Washington, D.C. office. If you have any questions, please contact Roberta Blank, Federal Activities Branch, at (415) 974-8187 or FTS 454-8187.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W Murray Jr
Charles W. Murray, Jr.
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Policy and Management

Enclosure (1 page)

Comments

48-1 1. The SDEIS is vague in describing the threat of fire under wilderness versus nonwilderness management techniques. The FEIS should describe the magnitude of difference between wilderness and nonwilderness fire management techniques in preventing and fighting fires. The difference in degree of impact to soils, watershed and vegetation under wilderness versus nonwilderness fire management techniques should be described in detail as well.

48-2 2. It seems that sensitive plant species could benefit from protection afforded under wilderness designation. The SDEIS states that vegetative manipulation and management projects may be approved under wilderness management on a case by case basis if they will promote perpetuation of a threatened or endangered species. The FEIS should clarify to what degree an ACEC designation would provide greater protection to these plants in the long run than would wilderness designation.

48-3 3. The FEIS should indicate what the probable long term development possibilities are for the wilderness study areas and surrounding lands if the areas are not designated for wilderness. Would these Federal lands be subject to sales?

49

219 16th Av
SF CA 94118

BLM
So. California Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce St
Riverside CA 92507

Sept 6, 1984

Dear BLM:

I am surprised and upset by your reversal of position on wilderness recommendation for Beauty Mountain, Hauser Mtn., Western and Southern Otay Mountain WSA's. Please return ~~to~~ to your original acreage proposals for these areas - let Congress decide, rather than pre-empting the decision.

Thank you

Sincerely
Alexander Gaguine
San Francisco

50

ALAN CARLTON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
2005 PLEASANT VALLEY
SUITE 311
OAKLAND, CA. 94611

BLM
So. Cal. Met. Pro. Area
1695 Spruce St.
Riverside, CA 92507

50-1 I am writing to express my opposition to your change in wilderness designatation for the Beauty Mountain, the Hauser Mountain, and the Otay Mountain Wilderness Study Areas. The reasons expressed for these proposed changes are inappropriate. Fire control is managed in many wilderness areas. The existence of rare and endangered species is an important reason for wilderness designation; if they cannot be protected in a wilderness area, where can they be protected? Also, the fact that other wilderness areas are near is a reason to designated further wilderness areas because the adjacent land use is apppropriate; it is not a basis for refusing wilderness designation. There is not a statutory limitation on how much wilderness is allowable.

Sincerely yours,

Alan Carlton

Ack ✓

51

THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION REPRESENTATIVE
320 Maravilla Drive, Riverside, CA 92507

September 5, 1984

Mr. Gerald Hillier
BLM, 1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Re: So. Cal. Metro. Project Area,
Western Counties Wilderness Study
Project, Supplemental DEIS.

Dear Mr. Hillier:

With reference to the above DEIS, we submit herewith our comments on the proposed action regarding the Wilderness Study areas of Agua Tibia, Beauty Mountain, Hauser Mountain, Western Otay Mountain and Southern Otay Mountain.

These areas lie within the Greater San Diego area now being subjected to intensive growth which will in time overrun all lands available for development and consumptive use. It is therefore urgent that these units, which have been identified by you to have superior wilderness values, be protected for preservation of their natural beauty, scenic and wilderness qualities, and high vegetation and wildlife values.

We agree with you that Agua Tibia's 360 acres should logically be included in the Forest Service's existing Agua Tibia Wilderness area. However, we are greatly disappointed that you are recommending as "non-suitable" the other four areas. We urge that you reconsider and instead recommend these four proposed wilderness study areas as "suitable" for wilderness designation. 51-1 These areas, primarily mountainous, are particularly outstanding in vegetation, rare plants and wildlife values. Otay Mountain is especially rich in rare plants and constitutes a unique ecosystem. The environmental consequences as outlined in Chapter 4 definitely indicate that now is the time to fully protect these valuable wilderness areas.

51-2 The major concern against wilderness designation seems related to fire hazard. As pointed out in the DEIS, BLM has authority to provide for fire prevention and/or control, including prescribed burning, under the Wilderness Act, FLPMA, and BLM's Wilderness Management Policy. The DEIS thus indicates that adequate measures will be taken for wildfire prevention and suppression. The concerns of the California Department of Forestry and San Diego Gas and Electric (as expressed in their letters in Chapter 5) should therefore be alleviated as they can be integrated into the BLM fire management plan.

51-3 Concerning an ACEC designation for the Otay Mountain units, we consider wilderness designation to be far superior to ACEC designation for protection and management and we urge that you so designate both Otay Mountain units.

We trust you will give our recommendations serious consideration.

Sincerely yours,
June Latting
June Latting, Ph.D.

---

(707) 984-8178

Ack ✓

Ruth Douglas
Mill Creek Ranch
P. O. Box 1138
Laytonville, CA 95454

September 3 1984

52

Bureau of Land Management,
Southern California Metropolitan Project Area,
1695 Spruce Street,
Riverside, California 92507

Dear Sir:

I have just now become aware of the situation of the roadless areas in San Diego and Riverside counties.
These areas were previously part of a wilderness recommendation by the BLM consisting of an acreage of 17,774 acres.
As of now BLM has reduced that wilderness acreage to

360 acres!!!!!.

Beauty Mountain WSA-Hauser Mountain WSA and Western & Southern Otay Mountain WSA WSA -all rejected.

YET -these areas are exactly as they were in 1982 when they were recommended for wilderness protection.

Only BLM has changed its mind and gone back on its word.

I protest this dishonorable and totally unjustifiable reneging on an approved plan.

Please recommend All areas for wilderness designation and give Congress the opportunity to make the final decision.

And be good enough to reply to this very angry if inevitably too brief (because of time limitations) letter of protest over this betrayal of public trust.

sincerely
Ruth Douglas —
Ruth Douglas

53

258 Wayne Avenue
Oakland, CA 94606
September 5, 1984

BLM
Southern California Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Dear Sirs:

This letter comprises my comments on the supplemental draft EIS for the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project:

1. I strongly support Alternative 4 - All Wilderness, for the WSA's covered by the draft EIS.

63-1 2. The presence of endangered plants and animals is not an appropriate reason for rejecting wilderness designation. There are many precedents for special management of endangered species in wilderness areas, and I believe wilderness designation is the best way to protect sensitive flora and fauna.

63-2 3. Mechanized equipment is allowed by the Wilderness Act in certain emergencies, including fire control. Also, some techniques, such as fuelbreaks and prescribed burning, may be allowed under certain circumstances.

63-3 4. ACEC's are not a substitute for wilderness designation, because mining, oil and gas drilling, ORV use and even logging may be allowed in ACEC's. It seems more appropriate to designate an area with critical environmental needs an ACEC in addition to wilderness designation.

63-4 5. The proximity of State Wilderness seems a poor reason to reject wilderness status for these areas.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my views.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Hasbrouck

Richard C. Hasbrouck

54

6 September 1984
8707 Caeitas Road,
Atascadero, CA. 93422.

Bureau of Land Management,
So. Cal. Metropolitan Project Area,
1695 Spruce Street,
Riverside, California.

Dear Sirs,

We wish to register our strong disappointment and dieapproval of the way the Bureau of Land Management has summarily dismissed as unsuitable thousands of acres designated as WSAe for possible wilderness designation . These WSAs were developed after years of research and collaboration between environmentalists and BLM and now this--it is a slap in the face! To reduce the wilderness recommendation of some 17,774 acres in San Diego and Riverside Counties to a mere 360 acres is ridiculous and unconscionable. BLM has a mandate to manage all public lands for the benefit of the general public from Congress, not to try to give it away or declare lands unworthy of protection from private interests or developement.

Specifically, we are upset because BLM cannot see any recreational or ecientific values in the following WSAs:

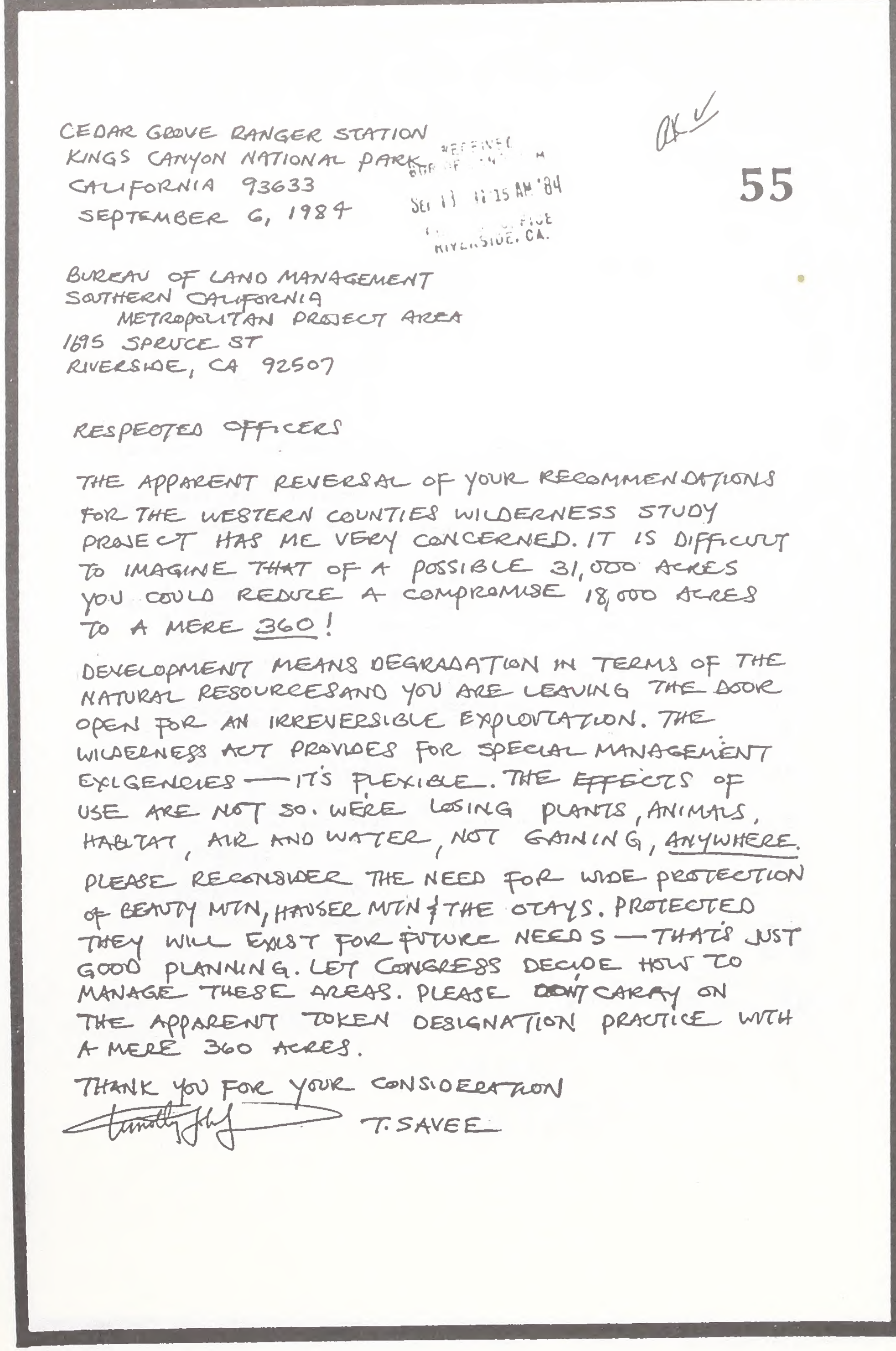
Beauty Mountain WSA
Hauser Mountain WSA
Western and Southern Otay Mountain WSAs.

64-1 These WSAs contain rare plants worthy of protection, are rugged in character, in eome cases are near existing wilderness, the proposed route of the Pacific Crest Trail passes through one of them, natural studies and photography of rare plants are carried out in them, the Otay Mountains comprise a unique botanical study area unequalled in California.

64-2 To recommend these areas as ACECS ie acceptable to us in addition to wilderness designation. ACEC designation does not protect an area from being logged, mined, or drilled for gas or oil. We also feel that there is widespread public eupport for these areas for wilderness, and endangered species of plants and animale are an asset to wilderness, not an excuse to reject wilderness designation.

Yours very truly,

E. Craig Cunningham



55

CEDAR GROVE RANGER STATION
KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK
CALIFORNIA 93633
SEPTEMBER 6, 1984

SEP 11 11:15 AM '84
RIVERSIDE, CA.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
METROPOLITAN PROJECT AREA
1695 SPRUCE ST
RIVERSIDE, CA 92507

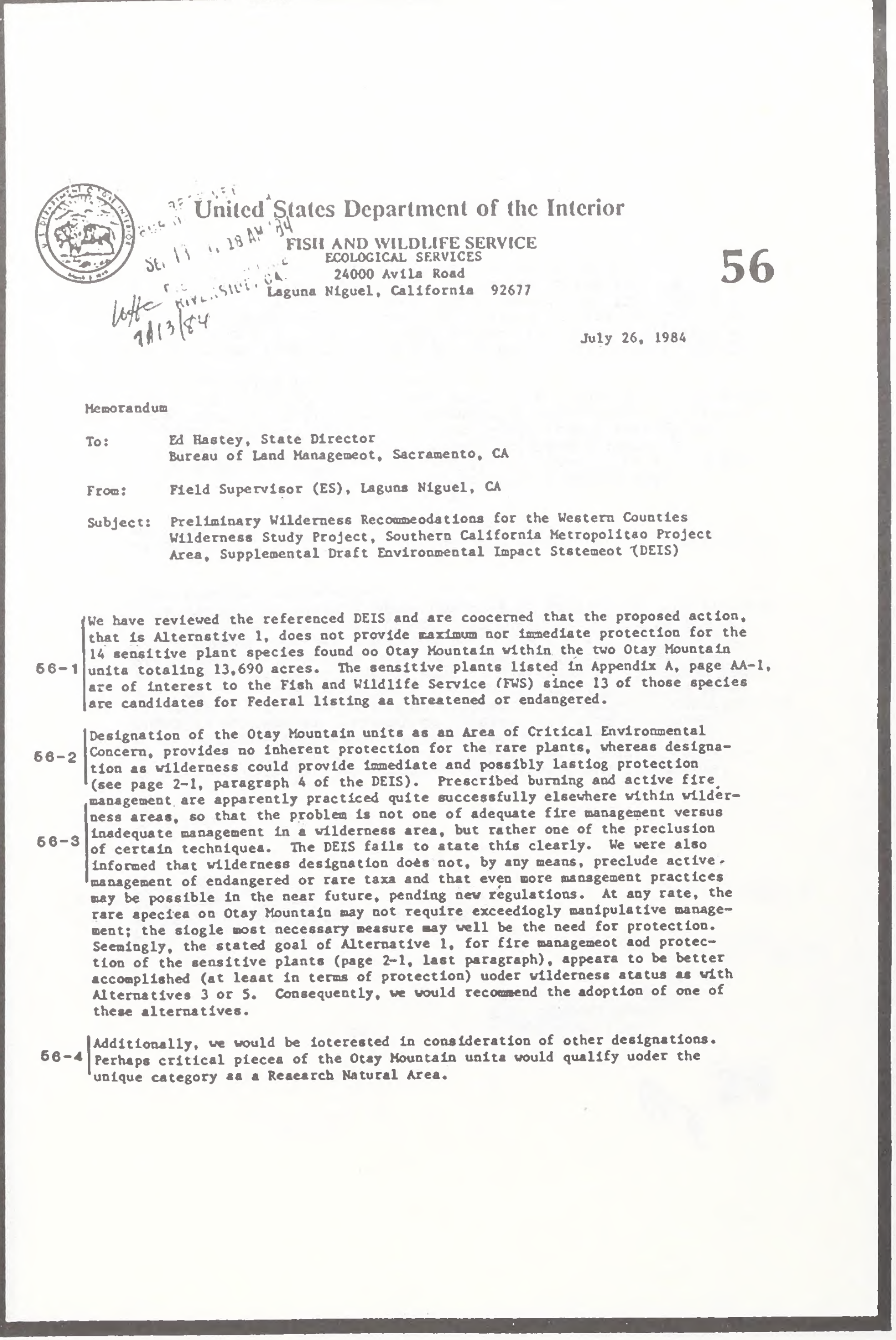
RESPECTED OFFICERS

THE APPARENT REVERSAL OF YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WESTERN COUNTIES WILDERNESS STUDY PROJECT HAS ME VERY CONCERNED. IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT OF A POSSIBLE 31,000 ACRES YOU COULD REDUCE A COMPROMISE 18,000 ACRES TO A MERE 360!

DEVELOPMENT MEANS DEGRADATION IN TERMS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND YOU ARE LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN FOR AN IRREVERSIBLE EXPLOITATION. THE WILDERNESS ACT PROVIDES FOR SPECIAL MANAGEMENT EXIGENCIES — IT'S FLEXIBLE. THE EFFECTS OF USE ARE NOT SO. WE'RE LOSING PLANTS, ANIMALS, HABITAT, AIR AND WATER, NOT GAINING, ANYWHERE. PLEASE RECONSIDER THE NEED FOR WIDE PROTECTION OF BEAUTY MTN, HAUSER MTN & THE OTAYS. PROTECTED THEY WILL EXIST FOR FUTURE NEEDS — THAT'S JUST GOOD PLANNING. LET CONGRESS DECIDE HOW TO MANAGE THESE AREAS. PLEASE ~~DON'T~~ CARRY ON THE APPARENT TOKEN DESIGNATION PRACTICE WITH A MERE 360 ACRES.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

T. SAVEE



56

United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES
24000 Avila Road
Laguna Niguel, California 92677

SEP 11 11:18 AM '84
RIVERSIDE, CA.

9/13/84

July 26, 1984

Memorandum

To: Ed Hastey, State Director
Bureau of Land Management, Sacramento, CA

From: Field Supervisor (ES), Laguna Niguel, CA

Subject: Preliminary Wilderness Recommendations for the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project, Southern California Metropolitan Project Area, Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

56-1 We have reviewed the referenced DEIS and are concerned that the proposed action, that is Alternative 1, does not provide maximum nor immediate protection for the 14 sensitive plant species found on Otay Mountain within the two Otay Mountain units totaling 13,690 acres. The sensitive plants listed in Appendix A, page AA-1, are of interest to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) since 13 of those species are candidates for Federal listing as threatened or endangered.

56-2 Designation of the Otay Mountain units as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, provides no inherent protection for the rare plants, whereas designation as wilderness could provide immediate and possibly lasting protection (see page 2-1, paragraph 4 of the DEIS). 56-3 Prescribed burning and active fire management are apparently practiced quite successfully elsewhere within wilderness areas, so that the problem is not one of adequate fire management versus inadequate management in a wilderness area, but rather one of the preclusion of certain techniques. The DEIS fails to state this clearly. We were also informed that wilderness designation does not, by any means, preclude active management of endangered or rare taxa and that even more management practices may be possible in the near future, pending new regulations. At any rate, the rare species on Otay Mountain may not require exceedingly manipulative management; the single most necessary measure may well be the need for protection. Seemingly, the stated goal of Alternative 1, for fire management and protection of the sensitive plants (page 2-1, last paragraph), appears to be better accomplished (at least in terms of protection) under wilderness status as with Alternatives 3 or 5. Consequently, we would recommend the adoption of one of these alternatives.

56-4 Additionally, we would be interested in consideration of other designations. Perhaps critical pieces of the Otay Mountain units would qualify under the unique category as a Research Natural Area.

The Bureau is fully aware of responsibilities mandated by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The great utility in consulting informally on actions that could affect candidate species is also apparent. The primary goal of such a consultation, in this case would be to review all of the alternatives and suggest the one best for providing protection for the candidate species.

Should any questions arise concerning these comments, kindly contact Dick Zembal or me at FTS 796-4270.

Nancy Kaufman

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary
450 Golden Gate Avenue
P.O. Box 36098
San Francisco, California 94102

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
INT 418

Mr. Bill Haigh
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Rusk ✓

ECOLOGY CENTER
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
P.O. BOX 35473, LOS ANGELES, CA 90035 • TELEPHONE 213/559-9160

57

SEP 13 11 24 AM '84
RIVERSIDE, CA.

September 11, 1984

Bureau of Land Management
So. Calif. Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce St.
Riverside, CA 92507

Re: National Wilderness Preservation For 17,774 acres San Diego/Riverside

We write in unqualified support for Alternative 4 — all wilderness, and request you recommend all WSA's as suitable. We believe there is no justification for rejecting wilderness designation for Beauty Mountain, Hauser Mountain, Western & Southern Otay Mountain.

57-1 Especially when your recommendation was disastrously reduced to 360 acres. The Wilderness Act recognizes the need for using fire control and Congress has so allowed so that many areas in California are still successfully managed as wilderness despite acknowledged fire dangers. This objection was specious. Now: as to Endangered Species:

57-2 Endangered species of plants and animals are an asset to wilderness, and most assuredly not an excuse to reject wilderness designation.

57-3 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are not a substitute for wilderness designation, and we do especially oppose the permits that are being extended to mining, drilling for oil and gas, off-road vehicle use and logging. We are aware that State Wilderness sometimes exists close to these wilderness study areas, but in our opinion this is all the more reason for the National Wilderness protection. Your proposed acre reduction is unconscionable.

Please keep our letter as part of your records, and thank you for your consideration. We will appreciate your distributing our letter to all interested persons.

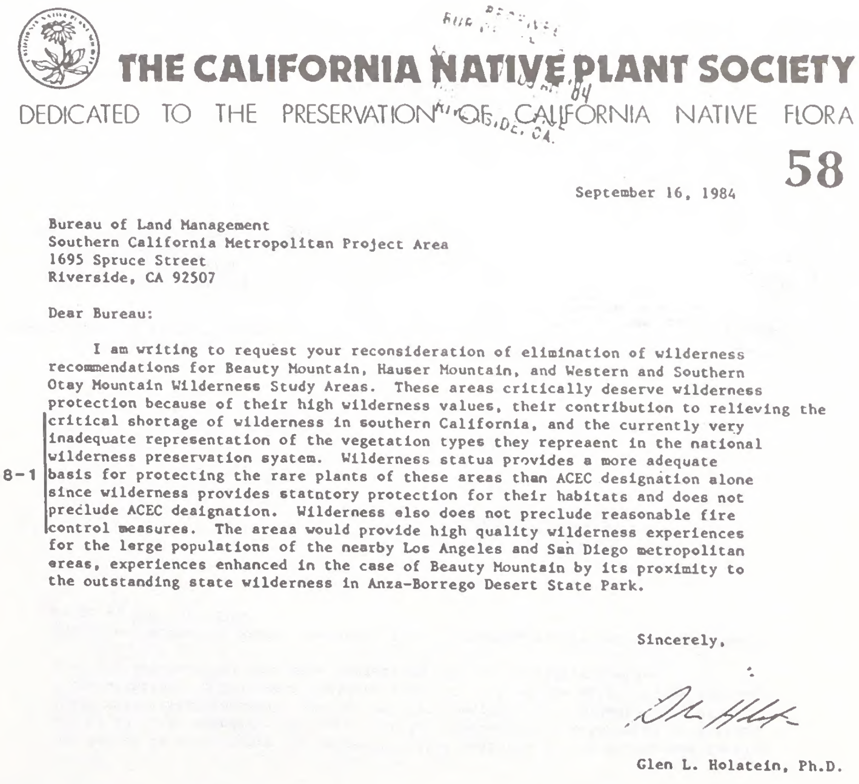
Sincerely,

Elaine Stansfield

Elaine Stansfield
Associate Director

ES/lm

100% RECYCLED PAPER



THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA

58

September 16, 1984

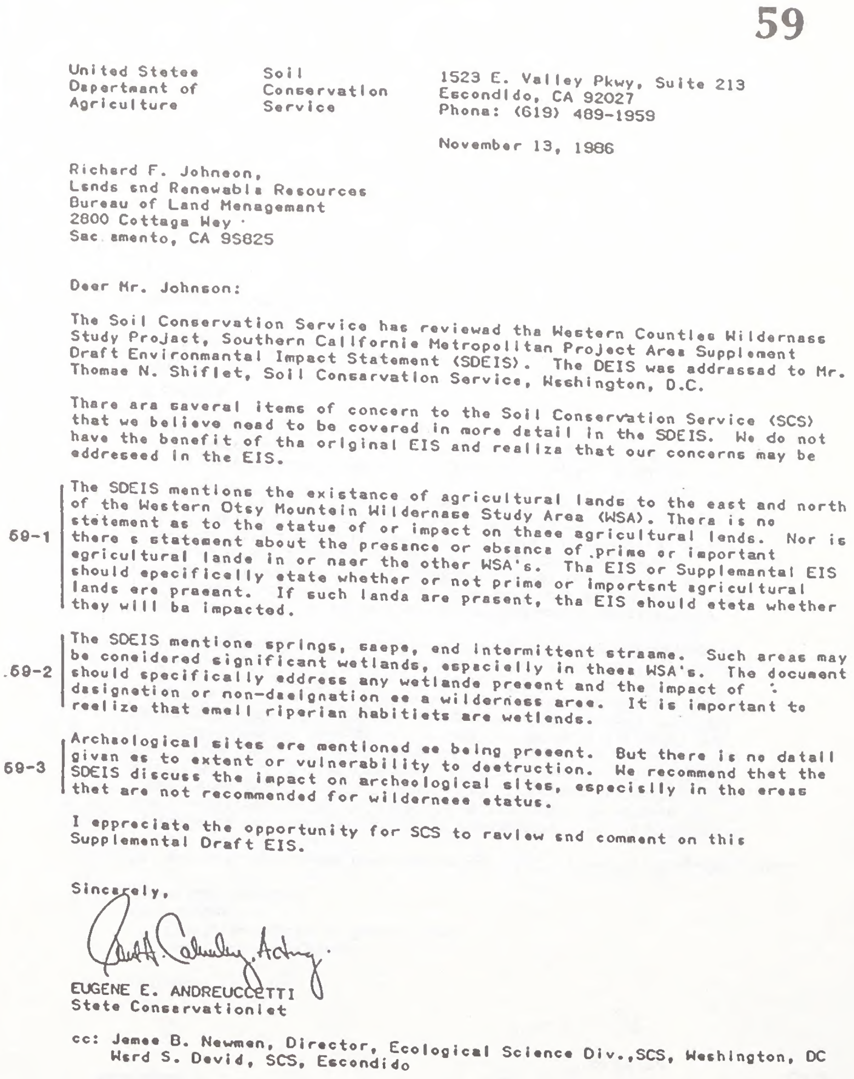
Bureau of Land Management
Southern California Metropolitan Project Area
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Dear Bureau:

I am writing to request your reconsideration of elimination of wilderness recommendations for Beauty Mountain, Hauser Mountain, and Western and Southern Otay Mountain Wilderness Study Areas. These areas critically deserve wilderness protection because of their high wilderness values, their contribution to relieving the critical shortage of wilderness in southern California, and the currently very inadequate representation of the vegetation types they represent in the national wilderness preservation system. 68-1 Wilderness status provides a more adequate basis for protecting the rare plants of these areas than ACEC designation alone since wilderness provides statutory protection for their habitats and does not preclude ACEC designation. Wilderness also does not preclude reasonable fire control measures. The areas would provide high quality wilderness experiences for the large populations of the nearby Los Angeles and San Diego metropolitan areas, experiences enhanced in the case of Beauty Mountain by its proximity to the outstanding state wilderness in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Sincerely,

Glen L. Holstein, Ph.D.



59

United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
1523 E. Valley Pkwy, Suite 213
Escondido, CA 92027
Phone: (619) 489-1959

November 13, 1986

Richard F. Johnson,
Lands and Renewable Resources
Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Soil Conservation Service has reviewed the Western Counties Wilderness Study Project, Southern California Metropolitan Project Area Supplement Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS). The DEIS was addressed to Mr. Thomas N. Shiflet, Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D.C.

There are several items of concern to the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) that we believe need to be covered in more detail in the SDEIS. We do not have the benefit of the original EIS and realize that our concerns may be addressed in the EIS.

59-1 The SDEIS mentions the existence of agricultural lands to the east and north of the Western Otay Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). There is no statement as to the status of or impact on these agricultural lands. Nor is there a statement about the presence or absence of prime or important agricultural lands in or near the other WSA's. The EIS or Supplemental EIS should specifically state whether or not prime or important agricultural lands are present. If such lands are present, the EIS should state whether they will be impacted.

59-2 The SDEIS mentions springs, seeps, and intermittent streams. Such areas may be considered significant wetlands, especially in these WSA's. The document should specifically address any wetlands present and the impact of designation or non-designation as a wilderness area. It is important to realize that small riparian habitats are wetlands.

59-3 Archeological sites are mentioned as being present. But there is no detail given as to extent or vulnerability to destruction. We recommend that the SDEIS discuss the impact on archeological sites, especially in the areas that are not recommended for wilderness status.

I appreciate the opportunity for SCS to review and comment on this Supplemental Draft EIS.

Sincerely,

Acting

EUGENE E. ANDREUCCETTI
State Conservationist

cc: James B. Newman, Director, Ecological Science Div., SCS, Washington, DC
Ward S. David, SCS, Escondido

RESPONSES TO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS

Response to the Mountain Defense League

6-1 The wilderness recommendations contained in the SDEIS have been revised to recommend the Western Otay and Southern Otay WSAs as partially suitable for wilderness designation. The current recommendations reflect public comments on the SDEIS and DEIS, and our analysis of resource and wilderness values for each of the five WSAs under consideration.

6-2 Review of the Wilderness Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Bureau's wilderness management policies indicate that active management to perpetuate these species is not necessarily incompatible with wilderness management. Most or all of the sensitive species identified in the Otay Mountain WSAs are within the area now recommended for designation and management as wilderness.

Response to the San Diego Association of Governments

9-1 Wilderness designation would limit the use of mechanized equipment in fire management. Fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and ground crews would be used for fire control. Cross-country vehicle travel would be permitted, but only when the terrain and surface conditions would permit such travel without damage to vegetative cover, and only with the approval of the District Manager/Forest Supervisor. Heavy equipment such as tracked vehicles and dozers would not be permitted except to prevent loss of human life or to protect private or high-value property. Areas outside a designated wilderness (e.g., the vicinity of the communication sites near the Doghouse Junction on Otay Mountain) would not be subject to wilderness fire management restrictions.

Recent input from the Cleveland National Forest indicates that their fire management "backcountry" zones (which the Western Counties WSAs would become upon transfer to the Forest Service) are generally limited to attack by hand tools and aerial techniques.

9-2 The current recommendation is that portions of the Western Otay and Southern Otay WSAs be designated as wilderness. Following designation a fire management plan would be written for each WSA. It would become an addendum to the wilderness management plan which will be prepared by the USDA - Forest Service's Cleveland National Forest. This plan could provide for research regarding the role of fire in the ecosystem.

Response to Michael Calavito

11-1 Consideration of the representation of a chaparral vegetation type, diversity of plant species, and the presence of several sensitive plant species was one of the considerations in recommending the Western Otay and Southern Otay WSAs as partially suitable for wilderness designation.

Though Hauser Mountain and Beauty Mountain are recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation, the chaparral vegetation community is present on the other areas recommended suitable.

11-2 Fire management was not a significant criterion in developing the recommendations of nonsuitability for the Beauty Mountain and Hauser Mountain WSAs. See response to comment 9-1.

11-3 The two WSAs closest to a large metropolitan area have been recommended partially suitable for wilderness designation. Management of the Beauty Mountain and Hauser Mountain areas for multiple use will not preclude opportunities for primitive recreation.

11-4 The primitive recreation experience available through use of the Pacific Crest Trail is not expected to be significantly affected by nonwilderness status for Hauser Mountain.

Response to the Wilderness Society

12-1 Refer to response on comment 6-1.

12-2 The scenic appeal of the Beauty Mountain is acknowledged. The recommendation for nonsuitability is based on other considerations, such as the anticipated development of mineral resources which would detract from wilderness values. Our review of the Beauty Mountain WSA has indicated that the chaparral vegetation is too dense and terrain too steep for suitable Steven's kangaroo rat habitat. Suitable habitat may be present on the more flat areas on private lands which surround the WSA.

12-3 Lack of wilderness designation is not expected to jeopardize any of the sensitive plant species which occur within the Hauser Mountain WSA.

12-4 The issue of fire management vis-à-vis wilderness has been reassessed, and the recommendations adjusted accordingly. The use of mechanized equipment to combat fires and prevent loss of life or property is expressly allowed by the Bureau's Interim Management Policies and Wilderness Management Policies. Our concern had been that such techniques are considered generally incompatible with management as wilderness. Also see response to comment 9-1.

12-5 Impacts on grazing are discussed on pages 101, 104, 106, 109, 111, 114, 116, and 119. Impacts on border patrol activities were considered but dropped from detailed analysis (see pages 9 and 11).

12-6 The implications of an Area of Critical Environmental Concern designation were discussed on pages 2-4 and 4-4 of the Supplemental Draft.

The ACEC alternatives have been dropped from consideration in this study (see page 11).

12-7 The sensitive plants identified in the SDEIS are not on the State or Federal lists of Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species, although some are candidates for listing. This study was conducted on the basis of existing information on the areas, their resources, and uses. Other than a very limited number of site observations by non-Bureau staff, we know essentially nothing about these plants--their distributions, population levels, population conditions and trends, natural history, growth requirements, etc. Only the Tecate Cypress has had any significant research conducted on it, and that has been rather limited. ACEC designation was proposed in the SDEIS as a means to determine more about these plants and those actions necessary to perpetuate their existence. Such research also would be allowed in a designated wilderness.

Response to the California Department of Parks and Recreation

13-1 The current (October 1986) location of the proposed OHV site is outside the Western and Southern Otay Mountain WSAs and outside adjacent land BLM is considering acquiring.

Completion of the OHV site would likely impact wilderness values of the WSAs to some extent. Designation of the two areas as wilderness, however, is not expected to jeopardize the OHV site. It is anticipated that the sizes of the two WSAs involved will provide a large enough base of land to maintain the overall integrity of a wilderness area despite the inevitable encroachment of surrounding urban development.

Response to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors

14-1 See response to comment 6-1.

Response to the Atlantic Richfield Company

15-1 See response to comment 9-1.

Response to William De Jager

16-1 Refer to response on comment 6-1.

16-2 The economic development of mineral resources was not considered an issue in this analysis, except for the Beauty Mountain WSA where there is potential for tungsten.

16-3 Refer to response on comment 9-1.

16-4 Refer to response on comment 6-2.

Response to Ron Guenther

17-1 See response to comment 9-1.

17-2 See response to comment 6-2.

17-3 ACEC designation (administrative) provides a more flexible form of management than wilderness designation (legislative), permitting a wider variety of land uses. In the SDEIS, it had been considered to be more appropriate to gather information on the sensitive plant species, whose life cycles are largely unknown. Review of the Wilderness Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Bureau's Wilderness Management policies indicate that active management to perpetuate these species is not necessarily incompatible with wilderness management. Most or all of the sensitive species identified in the Otay Mountain WSAs are within the area now recommended for designation and management as wilderness.

17-4 Geographic distribution of wilderness opportunities is a criterion in the decision to recommend or not recommend an area for wilderness designation. Diversity of landforms and ecosystems is also a criterion considered in the study and recommendation. Other wilderness opportunities exist nearby, including areas newly designated by the California Wilderness Bill of 1984, and which offer greater opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The Otay Mountain WSAs' strongest rationale for designation are the truly unique location in proximity to a large metro- politan population, and the unsurpassed vegetation resource values. The current recommendation recognizes these latter values, and does not accept the "existence" argument used in the SDEIS. That argument is still accepted, however, for the Hauser and Beauty Mountain WSAs, neither of which is nearly as close to a major urban area as Otay Mountain.

Response to Thomas Hunt

18-1 See response to 6-1.

Response to the Cleveland National Forest

19-1 See responses to comments 6-1 and 6-2.

Response to Jennifer Rigby

20-1 See response to comment 6-1.

Response to Goldie Otters

21-1 See response to comment 9-1.

21-2 See response to comment 17-3.

Response to John Miller

22-1 See response to comment 9-1.

22-2 See response to comment 6-2.

22-3 See response to comment 17-3.

Response to Roger Hedgecock, Mayor, City of San Diego

23-1 See response to comment 6-1.

23-2 The communication site facilities in question lie between the Southern Otay and Western Otay WSAs in the vicinity of Doghouse Junction. Our review of fire management techniques allowable under wilderness management has resulted in changes in the manner in which the subject is addressed in this document as compared with the DEIS. Also, see response to comment 9-1.

23-3 Since completion of the SDEIS, the U.S. Bureau of Mines has conducted field examinations and literature research on the mineral potential of the Southern Otay and Western Otay WSAs. Current information indicates that potential for mineralization is relatively low. This new knowledge is reflected in the analysis of impacts in Chapter 4 of this document.

23-4 Bureau staff conducted an on-the-ground review of the Otay Mountains on November 2, 1984, with Dr. Zedler and other representatives of San Diego State University, the Cleveland National Forest, City and County of San Diego, and conservation groups. Their input was instrumental in delineating the current suitable/nonsuitable boundaries. Dr. Zedler's research on the Tecate Cypress is continuing, and will be made available to the Bureau. Also, see response to comment 6-2.

23-5 Current evaluation of vehicular patrol activity indicates that it is limited to those routes inventoried in the unit, which are unaffected by a suitable wilderness recommendation.

Response to Linda Jean Foster

24-1 The Bureau of Land Management is the Federal agency with the responsibility of making wilderness recommendations for these areas. The decision for wilderness designations will be made by Congress.

Response to Marion Sanford

25-1 See response to comment 6-2.

25-2 See response to comment 9-1.

25-3 See response to comment 17-3.

Response to William J. Laden

26-1 See responses to comments 6-1, 6-2, 9-1 and 17-4.

Response to Georgette Theotig

27-1 See response to comment 6-2.

27-2 See response to comment 17-3.

Response to Byron Anderson

28-1 See response to comment 6-1.

Response to the Sierra Club - Southern Regional Conservation Committee

29-1 See response to comment 6-2.

29-2 See response to comment 11-4.

29-3 None of the activities identified in this comment are known to exist in the WSAs, except for a few undeveloped mining claims. The ACEC designation would not necessarily provide the protection you describe. Upon transfer of these lands to the U.S. Forest Service, they have the option to designate the area a Research Natural Area (in addition to the wilderness recommendation), which is more protective than the Bureau's Area of Critical Environmental Concern designation. Also, see response to comment 17-3.

29-4 See response to comment 6-1.

Response to San Diego State University, Department of Biology

30-1 The current recommendation of most of the Otay Mountains as suitable for wilderness designation is based in large part upon distribution of Tecate Cypress. Fire management manipulations are not now given the deference they received in the SDEIS. Also, see responses to comments 6-1 and 9-1.

30-2 See responses to comments numbers 6-2, 17-3 and 29-3.

Response to the American Wilderness Alliance

31-1 See responses to comments 6-1 and 17-3.

31-2 See responses to comments 6-1 and 11-4.

31-3 See response to comment 9-1.

Response to Harriet Allen

32-1 See response to comment 6-1.

32-2 The current recommendations were developed with full knowledge of those activities which may be allowed under wilderness management. Limited fire management techniques, for example, are available under wilderness management as addressed in this document (see response to comment 9-1). Other uses such as grazing and mineral development are also allowable under wilderness management with certain limitations. Conversely, however, a lack of wilderness designation does not preclude all opportunity for primitive recreation experience or protection of natural resources.

32-3 Although we are familiar with the desire to develop an off-highway vehicle facility on Otay Mesa, the Bureau was not contacted by the State of California Off-Highway Vehicle Commission during this study effort. Our recommendations were not controlled of affected by this proposal.

Response to Frank Norris

33-1 See responses to comments 6-2, 12-7 and 29-3.

33-2 See response to comment 9-1.

Response to David and Jan Baxter

34-1 See response to comment 6-2.

34-2 See response to comment 17-3.

Response to John R. Swanson

35-1 The WSAs studied in this document include the first five listed. Also see response to comment 6-1.

Response to Lillian Bieber

36-1 See responses to comments 6-1 and 12-4.

36-2 See response to comment 6-2.

36-3 See response to comment 17-3.

36-4 See response to comment 17-4.

Response to Frances Dollar

37-1 Separate mailing lists are maintained by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. You have been placed on the mailing list for the Western Counties FEIS.

37-2 See response to comment 6-1.

37-3 See response to comment 17-3.

37-4 See response to comment 6-2.

37-5 See response to comment 9-1.

Response to San Diego Gem and Mineral Society

38-1 See responses to comments 9-1, 13-1 and 23-5.

Response to the San Diego Audubon Society, Inc.

39-1 The map has been revised for the FEIS and should be more easily interpreted.

39-2 The sensitive species present within the Hauser Mountain WSA can be protected without wilderness designation.

39-3 Refer to comments 6-1 and 17-3.

39-4 A more complete array of maps, including areas of potential mineral development, was prepared for the FEIS.

Response to Sierra Club (Southern California Regional Vice President)

40-1 The statement in question reflects Department of Interior policies and BLM Wilderness Management policies. The types and levels of adverse effects, are dependent upon the specific factors which threaten human health safety.

40-2 You are correct in your statement, except that the Border Patrol also does not conduct routine patrol of the areas.

40-3 You have misinterpreted the statement. "Short-term" referred to activities undertaken in the short term after Congress released the areas from further wilderness review. "Long-term" relates to perpetuity.

40-4 Input and actions of commenting agencies were reassessed to reach the current recommendations for the Otay Mountain WSAs. Those recommendations are consistent with the positions of the public majority, City and County of San Diego, and most organized groups.

It is still our reasoned opinion that the Beauty Mountain WSA is not suitable for wilderness designation, for the reasons stated in the FEIS.

40-5 The change made in the BLM recommendation between Draft and Supplemental Draft was explained in the Summary on page S-2.

40-6 The bulk of the Otay Mountains is currently proposed for wilderness designation.

40-7 Fire management was not the overriding factor in the nonsuitable recommendation for Beauty Mountain.

40-8 Thank you for your insight and helpful input.

40-9 The SDEIS does not imply extensive access, and limited current vehicular access does exist to or into several of the WSAs. Existing vehicular routes could be used for foot travel, but access across private lands could be problematical. We agree that Hauser Mountain and Beauty Mountain are generally lacking in features and facilities of interest to long-distance hikers; the routing of the

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCNST) along or in these WSAs was based not upon the presence of potential wilderness, but upon available public lands and development potential. These sections of the PCNST are, quite simply, not of the same quality as most of the (northern) PCNST.

40-10 Our analysis does not equate rockhounding potential with commercially minable deposits, and available data indicate the potential for expansion of tungsten operations to areas within the WSA. Wilderness designation would preclude vehicular access along several routes currently available to rockhounders and the general public. While rockhounding values and uses are limited, the opportunity to recreate in this activity is a legitimate planning concern.

40-11 Current plans are for the PCNST to follow the eastern boundary of the Beauty Mountain WSA, as shown on that map, and over Hauser Mountain, as shown on that revised map.

40-12 A more thorough analysis of recreational use has been prepared in the FEIS.

Response to the Sierra Club - San Diego Chapter

41-1 It is anticipated that without a designation of wilderness, ORV use would be limited to designated routes. Severe damage to the ecological community would not be anticipated.

41-2 See response to comment 9-1.

41-3 See response to comment 6-2.

41-4 See response to comment 6-1.

41-5 See response to comment 23-5.

41-6 Recreational use levels in the Otay Mountains have always been relatively low, and use is expected to be low following designation. Some designated wilderness areas experience high use levels (e.g., most Sierra Nevada crest areas), but the Otay Mountain units would be primarily a resource wilderness. While some recreational use is anticipated, specific management techniques would be developed in the Wilderness Management Plan, to be completed after Congressional designation.

41-7 We are unaware of any legitimate astronomical sites near Jacumba or in the project area. No archaeological surveys have been conducted in the WSA, but we are aware of some cultural resources in the general area. No permanent occupancy by Native Americans or others is known for any of the WSAs.

Response to Lawrence P. Kolb

42-1 The final EIS has modified the recommendations contained in the SDEIS.

Response to Tom Suk

43-1 See response to comment 17-3.

43-2 See response to comment 17-4.

43-3 See response to comment 9-1.

43-4 See response to comment 6-2.

43-5 The Bureau of Land Management's California State Director is responsible for the wilderness recommendations. The recommendations were developed with input from the District and Resource Area levels.

Response to Dianna Ripley

45-1 See response to comment 9-1.

45-2 See response to comment 17-3.

45-3 See response to comment 17-4.

Response to Eleanor Elander

46-1 See response to comment 6-2.

46-2 See response to comment 9-1.

Response to California Association of 4WD Clubs

47-1 The Hauser Mountain WSA simply does not possess the relative values or potential required for a suitable wilderness recommendation. It would be best utilized for other forms of multiple use. Historically, low levels of use by four-wheel drive vehicles has been recorded.

Response to the Environmental Protection Agency

48-1 See response to comment 9-1.

48-2 The ACEC designation is no longer being considered in this study.

Input from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others has been convincing in identifying the compatibility of the Endangered Species Act and the Wilderness Act in perpetuating the sensitive species on Otay Mountain.

48-3 The *Interim Management Policies* and *Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review* prohibit the transfer or sale of study lands prior to Congressional release. Because Congressional action would be required to transfer administration of these lands to the Forest Service, and because that legislation will contain provisions to maintain the WSA unimpaired and in Federal ownership until wilderness designation or release, there is no need to fear loss of WSA to private use.

Response to Alan Carlton

50-1 See responses to comments 6-2, 9-1, and 17-4.

Response to the California Native Plant Society (Southern California Conservation Representative)

51-1 See responses to comments 6-1 and 6-2.

51-2 See response to comment 9-1.

51-3 See response to comment 17-3.

Response to Richard C. Hasbrouch

53-1 See response to comment 6-2.

53-2 See response to comment 9-1.

53-3 See response to comment 17-3.

53-4 See response to comment 17-4.

Response to Craig Cunningham

54-1 The existence of rare plants and other features of the WSAs were evaluated in formulating the recommendations of the final EIS. The sensitive plant species which occur in the vicinity of Otay Mountain were considered in making the current recommendation of wilderness suitability for the Western Otay and Southern Otay WSAs.

54-2 See response to comment 17-3.

Response to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

56-1 See response to comment 6-2.

56-2 See response to comment 17-3.

56-3 See response to comment 9-1.

56-4 A designation of Research Natural Area could be considered for future management of the area.

Response to the Ecology Center of Southern California

57-1 See response to comment 9-1.

57-2 See response to comment 6-2.

57-3 See response to comment 17-3.

Response to the California Native Plant Society (Glen Holsten)

58-1 See responses to comments 6-2, 9-1 and 17-3.

Response to the Soil Conservation Service

59-1 There are agricultural lands to the north and east of the Western Otay Mountain WSA. There also is agricultural development to the south of the Beauty Mountain WSA.

Virtually all of the agricultural lands in the vicinity of the Western Otay Mountain WSA are considered locally important. Approximately 160 acres of prime agricultural land (Salinas Clay) is located near the Mexican border 2 miles east of the WSA.

There is also a patch (approximately 35 acres) of prime agricultural land within Oak Grove Valley, approximately 2 miles south of the Beauty Mountain WSA. This patch contains the Visalia Sandy Loam as mapped in the San Diego County Soil Survey. A small patch of Statewide important soil (Tujunga Sand) also occurs in Oak Grove Valley.

None of the alternatives of the EIS would be expected to impact the areas where these soils occur. Potential impact to prime and important agricultural lands was not considered likely and was not addressed as an issue in the development of the EIS.

59-2 The significance of small springs, seeps, and intermittent streams, and their value as wildlife habitat is addressed more completely in the Final EIS.

59-3 Specific information on archaeological sites within the WSAs is limited due to the fact that inventories have not been conducted over all of the areas as a specific effort in the development of this EIS. Existing information and literature has been researched, however, and cultural resource values are more thoroughly discussed in the Final EIS than in the SDEIS.

LIST OF PREPARERS

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GLOSSARY

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM): The amount of forage required to sustain the equivalent of one cow or five sheep for one month.

CONTIGUOUS: Lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary; lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

FLPMA: The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579, 90 Stat. 2743.43 USC 1701).

IMPACT: The effect, influence, alternation, or imprint of an activity.

IMPAIR: To diminish in value or excellence.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING OPERATIONS: Those operations under permit where the primary purpose is the grazing of livestock for the production of food and fiber. Includes pack and saddle stock used in conjunction with such operations.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN (MFP): The Bureau's basic planning decision document prior to the adoption of a new planning process in 1979, in which the decision document is a Resource Management Plan (RMP).

MINERAL ENTRY: The right to enter the Public Lands (under the administration of the BLM) to search for minerals and to claim or lease such minerals under the mining and mineral leasing laws and regulations.

MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT: Any machine activated by nonliving power source except small battery-powered, handcarried devices such as flashlights, shavers, Geiger counters, and cameras. Also "Mechanized Equipment."

MOTOR VEHICLE: Any vehicle which is self-propelled or any vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from batteries.

MULTIPLE RESOURCE VALUES AND USES: The present and potential uses of the various resources administered through multiple use management on the public lands and any public values associated with such uses.

MULTIPLE USE: ". . . the management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; the use of some lands for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural, scenic, scientific, and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output." (From Section 103, FLPMA.)

NATURALNESS: Refers to an area which "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." (From Section 2(c), Wilderness Act.)

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV): Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other terrain.

OUTSTANDING: 1. Standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. 2. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent.

PLANNING AREA: The area for which resource management plans are prepared and maintained. In most instances, it is the same as the resource area which is a geographic portion of a BLM District, under supervision of an Area Manager.

PLANNING CRITERIA: The factors used to guide development of the resource management plan, or revision, to ensure that it is tailored to the issues previously identified and to ensure that unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided. Planning criteria are developed to guide the collection and use of inventory data and information, the analysis of the management situation, the design and formulation of alternatives, the estimation of the effects of alternatives, the evaluation of alternatives, and the selection of the preferred alternative.

POPULATION CENTER: A Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) which has a population of 100,000 or greater. An SMSA is a county which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more plus as many adjacent counties as are metropolitan in character and are socially integrated with that central city or cities.

PRE-FLPMA: Before October 21, 1976, the date of approval of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION: Refers to a wilderness recommendation at any stage prior to the time when the Secretary of the Interior reports his recommendation to the President. Until the Secretary acts, the recommendation is "preliminary" because it is subject to change during the administrative review.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Nonmotorized and undeveloped types of outdoor recreation activities.

PUBLIC LANDS: For the purpose of the wilderness review program, any lands and interest in lands owned by the United States within the several States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except:

1. Lands where the United States owns the minerals but the surface is privately owned.

2. Lands being held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

3. Lands tentatively approved for State selection in Alaska.

4. Lands on the Outer Continental Shelf.

5. Oregon and California grant (O & C) lands that are managed for commercial timber production.

RANGELAND IMPROVEMENTS: Any structural or nonstructural improvements which directly affect or support the use of the forage resource by domestic livestock, such as fences, line cabins, water lines, and stock tanks.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP): The basic decision document of BLM's resource management planning process, used to establish allocation and coordination among uses for the various resources within a Resource Area. An RMP is a "land-use plan" prescribed by Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. RMP regulations appear in 43 CFR 1601. (Refer to definition of Management Framework Plan.)

SMSA: Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area - see definition under "Population Center."

SOLITUDE: 1. The state of being along or remote from habitations; isolation. 2. A lonely, unfrequented, or secluded place.

SUBSTANTIALLY UNNOTICEABLE: Refers to something that either is so insignificant as to be only a very minor feature of the overall area or is not distinctly recognizable by the average visitor as being man-made or man-caused because of age, weathering, or biological change. An example of the first would be a few minor dams or abandoned mine buildings that are widely scattered over a large area, so that they are an inconspicuous part of the scene. Serious intrusions of this kind, or many of them, may preclude inclusion of the land in a Wilderness Study Area. An example of the second would be an old juniper control project that has grown up to a natural appearance, the old fallen trees largely decomposed.

SUITABILITY: As used in the Wilderness Act and in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, refers to a recommendation by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture that certain Federal lands satisfy the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act and have been found appropriate for designation as wilderness on the basis of an analysis of the existing and potential uses of the land.

WILDERNESS: The definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891).

WILDERNESS AREA: An area formally designated by Act of Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS: The definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891).

WILDERNESS INVENTORY: An evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and map showing those lands that meet the wilderness criteria as established under Section 603(a) of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act, which will be referred to as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs).

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT: The management of human use and influence on lands which have been designated by an Act of Congress as wilderness areas.

WILDERNESS PROGRAM: Term used to describe all wilderness activities of the Bureau of Land Management including identification, management, and administrative functions.

WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS: A recommendation by the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary of the Interior, or the President, with respect to an area's suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness.

WILDERNESS REPORTING: The process of preparing the reports containing wilderness recommendations on Wilderness Study Areas and transmitting those reports to the Secretary of the Interior, the President, and Congress.

WILDERNESS REVIEW: The term used to cover the entire wilderness inventory study and reporting phases of the wilderness program of the Bureau of Land Management.

WILDERNESS STUDY: The process that specifies how each Wilderness Study Area must be studied through the BLM resource management planning system, analyzing all resources, values and uses within the WSA to determine whether the area will be recommended as suitable or nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA): A roadless area or island that has been inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics as described in Section 603 of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891).

WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENTS: Any structural or nonstructural improvements which directly affect or support the use of water, food, or shelter by wildlife, such as guzzlers, water lines, or fences.

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Appendices

APPENDIX A

SENSITIVE AND LISTED PLANT SPECIES OF OTAY MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS AND VICINITY

Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitive[1]	State-Listed	On or Near WSA
Acanthomintha ilicifolia	San Diego thorn-mint	2	End.	Near
Astragalus deanei	Deane milk-vetch	2		Near
Brodiaea orcuttii	Orcutt's brodiaea	2		On
Calochortus dunnii	Dunn's mariposa	2	Rare	On
Caulanthus stenocarpus	Slender-pod squaw cabbage	2	Rare	Near
Dudleya variegata	Variegated dudleya	2		Near
Eryngium aristulatum var. *parishii*	Parish's button-celery		End.	On
Ferocactus viridescens	San Diego barrel cactus	2		On
Fremontodendron mexicanum	Mexican fremontia	2	Rare	On
Hemizonia conjugens	Otay tarweed	2	End.	Near
Hemizonia floribunda	Tecate tarweed	2		Near
Nolina interrata	Dehesa bear-grass	1	End.	Near
Senecio ganderi	Gander butterweed	2	Rare	Near

---

[1] BLM sensitive species because it is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service category 1 candidate species. Source: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Supplement to Review of Plant Taxa for Listing, *Federal Register*, 28 November 1983.

APPENDIX B

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Sacramento, California 95825-1846

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	PA		
	Minerals		
	EEO		

Action by __________
Surname by __________
Return to __________

May 9, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Ed Hastey, State Director, Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

FROM: Project Leader, Endangered Species Office,
Sacramento, California 95825

SUBJECT: Consultation requirements for BLM Wilderness Designation 8500 (CA-930.1) (Case No. 1-1-86-I-321)

In response to your May 6, 1986, request for informal consultation regarding designation or non-designation of wilderness status for Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's), we concur with your statement that this process does not require formal Section 7 consultation. Any future actions on WSA's that might affect a listed species can be evaluated at proposal stage and formal consultations initiated if needed.

If you have questions regarding this reply please contact me at FTS/460-4866.

Gail C. Kobetich

cc: Chief, Endangered Species, Portland, OR 97232 (AFA-SE)

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